STANDARD BLUE

PRESENTED
BY
HIROKI UGAWA

SUGGESTED
All

IMPORTANT: READ THIS MANGA FROM LEFT TO RIGHT!

OMG, HI GUYS!! YOUR HUMBLE UPLOADER SPEAKING I JUST WANT YOU ALL TO KNOW THAT THIS RELEASE WAS COMPILED BY TAKING SCREENSHOTS OF EVERY SINGLE PAGE OUT OF A HIGHLY PROTECTED PDF FILE IT WAS KIND OF A BITCH THUS, I HAD ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO DO WITH THE TRANSLATION, EDITING, TYPESETTING, ETC IF YOU'VE GOT BEEF, TAKE IT UP WITH THE FINE FOLKS AT COMICSONE I'LL EVEN LEND YOU MY TIME MACHINE FOR THE OCCASION.

STANDARD BLUE

by

HIROKI UGAWA

I'D TELL YOU TO GO AND BUY YOUR OWN COPY, BUT THAT'S PROBABLY KINDOF IMPOSSIBLE BY NOW COMICSONE ORIGINALLY RELEASED THIS SERIES AS AN EBOOK, AND THEY'VE SINCE GONE OUT OF BUSINESS. I FOUND THIS FROM A FREE EBOOK LIBRARY, AND I LIKED IT, SO I'M GLAD TO SHARE IT WITH OTHERS.

PLEASE ENJOY!
-ORIANA3K

Attention

THIS IS A WORK OF FICTION. IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ANY ACTUAL PERSONS, ORGANIZATIONS AND EVENTS.

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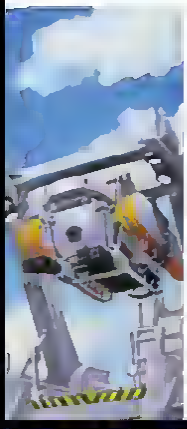

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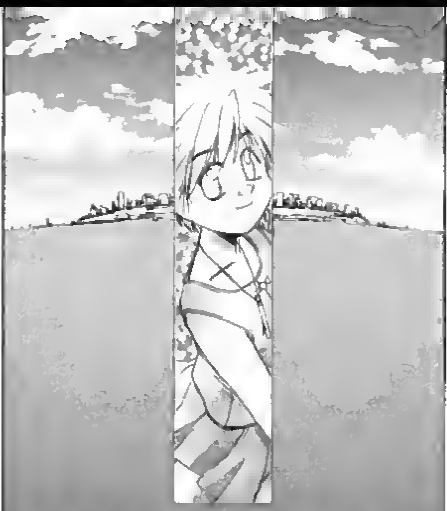
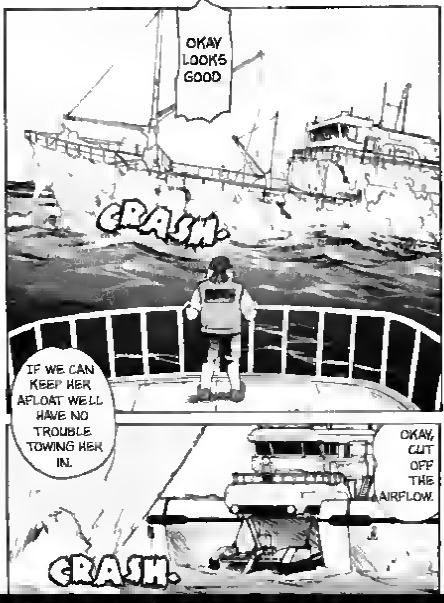


STANDARD BLUE

LOG #1
USHIO SEA SERVICE

2024. Near Nirai Island, Okinawa Prefecture



HOW'S IT GOING?
CAPTAIN!
AH!
GOOD, GOOD
CRASH
WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET BACK TO PORT BEFORE DINNER.
THAT'S GREAT.
CLOMP
CLOMP
IT'LL TAKE 18 YEARS TO PAY OFF THE MONEY I BORROWED FROM THE UNION FOR THAT SHIP
MY BLOOD RAN COLD WHEN SHE WENT DOWN.
I'M SURE GLAD I GAVE YOUR PLACE A CALL.

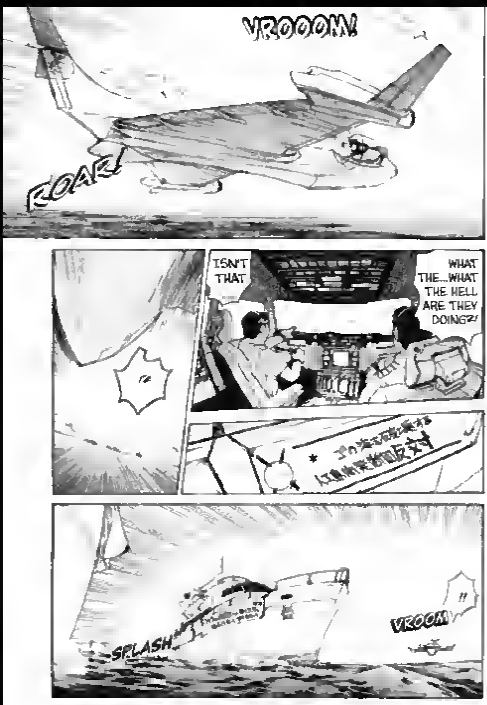
YOU GOT IT.
CRASH
"FINDING ANYTHING FROM LOST PETS TO SALVAGE QUICKLY AND ACCURATELY." THAT'S OUR MOTTO
?
GABA, GABA, GABA.
WE'RE JUST A SMALL BUSINESS.
CRASH
BUT OF ALL THE PRIVATE OPERATIONS...
WHAT THE. ?
CRASH
CRASH
CLUB

AAAUGH! HURRY UP AND DO SOMETHING!
TAKE!
THE BALANCE IS OFF FROM TOO MUCH AIR! TURN OFF THE PUMP!
HOW CAN I STOP IT FROM HERE?
I'M IN CHARGE OF CONNECTING THE TOW LINE.
TAICHUN!
I'M AT THE HELM.
POP.
AND I'M...I'M GIVING THE ORDERS.

gluh gluh gluh
IT WENT DOWN LIKE A ROCK. SALVAGE SURE IS BACK BREAKING WORK.
WE'RE LUCKY SHE DIDN'T BREAK INTO PIECES FROM THE WATER PRESSURE AND WEIGHT.
...WE DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH CREW.
THERE WAS NOTHING WE COULD DO!
CAPTAIN!
BUT YOU!
IT'S ALL BECAUSE WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH PEOPLE.
WELL THERE'S NO QUESTION WE'RE SHORT OF CREW
I WISH SOME SKILLFUL YOUNG PERSON WOULD JOIN US...
ARE YOU KIDDING?
NO
VRRR

MARK MY WORDS
THERE SHOULD BE A YOUNG PERSON FOR US SOMEWHERE
WITH POTENTIAL TALENT?
ZZZ
FASTEN SEATBELT
NO SMOKING
MMM
WIPE

MMM
NIRAI ISLAND IS THE LARGEST ARTIFICIAL ISLAND IN THE WORLD
NOW, I'D LIKE TO BEGIN THE TOUR.
CAN EVERYONE SEE THE VIEW ON YOUR RIGHT?
WOW!
FOLLOWING THE 19TH CENTURY WRITER JULES VERNE'S NOVEL,
THE ISLAND WAS NICKNAMED "STANDARD BLUE."
EXCUSE ME, MISS
YOUR SEATBELT.
AH.



*THE REEF AND THE OCEAN ARE BEING DESTROYED. ARTIFICIAL ISLAND DEVELOPMENT MUST BE STOPPED.
**THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTIONS ARE OUTRAGEOUS. FIGHT AGAINST COLONIALISM.

MOAN
MOAN
GRUMBLE
IT KIND OF LOOKS LIKE HE'S THINKING ABOUT JUMPING OVERBOARD.
THAT'S EASY FOR YOU TO SAY, BUT WHAT IF HE REALLY DOES JUMP?
SPLASH
WELL, I GUESS WE'LL HAVE TO SALVAGE HIM ALONG WITH HIS BOAT.
AND THEN CHARGE HIM DOUBLE.
BEEP
A REAL SAILOR WOULDN'T MOAN OVER SUCH A TRIVIAL THING.
CAPTAIN!
OFF THE STERN AT 5.00

WHAT THE HELL?
VROOM
THAT'S A SHIELD SHIP ISN'T IT?
HUH?
BUT THIS ISN'T PART OF THEIR ROUTE
IT'S AN AIRPLANE THAT SAVES ENERGY BY FLYING CLOSE TO THE SURFACE OF THE WATER JUST LIKE A BIRD TECHNICALLY, IT'S CONSIDERED A SHIP RATHER THAN AN AIRPLANE.
VRRMMMMM
ENGINES FULL SPEED!
IT'S COMING TOWARD US!
GET INSIDE, MR. OUGIMI!

IT'S NO GOOD!
SPLASH!
VROOM
WE'RE NOT GOING TO MAKE IT!
CUT POWER TO THE HOVER ENGINES! VENT THE EXHAUST VALVE!
BEEP BEEP
WE HAVE TO GET THE SHIP LOWER!
VROOM
MR. OLIGIM!
BAM!
VROOM
JUST LEAVE ME ALONE!
VWEEE
ZOOM
SPLASH!
SPLASH!

CRUNCH!
ROAR!
WHOA!
SPLISH
THUMP
AHH!
OW!
SHIP'S DRAFT RECOVERED
BANG!
DAMMIT
YOU MORONS!
WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING...
VRR--
FWISH
KERSPLASH!!
SPLASH!

SPLOOSH!
VROOM
...UH OH
ARE THEY SINKING?
WE DIDN'T...
VRRR....
WE DIDN'T CAUSE THAT, DID WE?

VRRR
TAKTAK-TAKTAK-TAKTA
SPLASH
SPLASH
AAHHHH!
SHOOSH...
W-WE'RE SINKING.
MMMNNN!
VRRR...
WHAT'S GOING ON..?
ARE YOU OKAY?
UM
YEAH
EVERYONE! PLEASE KEEP CALM.
PLEASE FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS OF THE CABIN CREW!

SSSSS!
EXIT
HEY-
EVERYONE CAN FIT IN THE BOAT.
PLEASE DON'T PANIC.
IS THAT EVERYONE?
ANYONE NOT WEARING A LIFEJACKET MOVE TO THE CENTER OF THE BOAT.
ANYONE WEARING HIGH-HEELS PLEASE TAKE THEM OFF.
NO.
THERE'S STILL AN INJURED PERSON INSIDE.
Ahoge
!
Woosh
HELP HAS COME.
USHIO SEA
GRANDPA!
WAVE WAVE
GRANDPA
GRANDPA TAIZOU!
HUH?

CRACKLE CRACKLE
AHOY!
CLICK
IS THAT YOU SHIKI?
MY, MY YOU'VE GOTTEN SO BIG
I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU!
YOU'RE LOOKING WELL, SHIKI
CAPTAIN!
SHIKI?
AH UM, SORRY.
IT'S NOT THAT
THE FLOATPLANE
SNAP

IT DOESN'T LOOK GOOD SHE'S STARTING TO GO DOWN!

BUBBLE

SPLASH

MAKE TWO ROWS AND COME ABOARD, SINGLE FILE.

DON'T PUSH FROM BEHIND!

BUBBLE

BUBBLE

IS ANYONE STILL IN THE AIRPLANE?

SPLASH

THERE'S STILL ONE INJURED PASSENGER AND A CREW MEMBER.
WHAT?
BURBLE
BURBLE
TH-THUMP
TH-THUMP
SQUEEZE!
DASH
SLAM
TUNG
HEY
HEY!

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING, KID?
I'M GONNA HELP THEM!
HELP THEM? YOU KNOW IT'S STARTED TO SINK, DON'T YOU?
NO PROBLEM!
DASH!
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!
ARE YOU, KAZUKI?..
SHIKI?
EH?

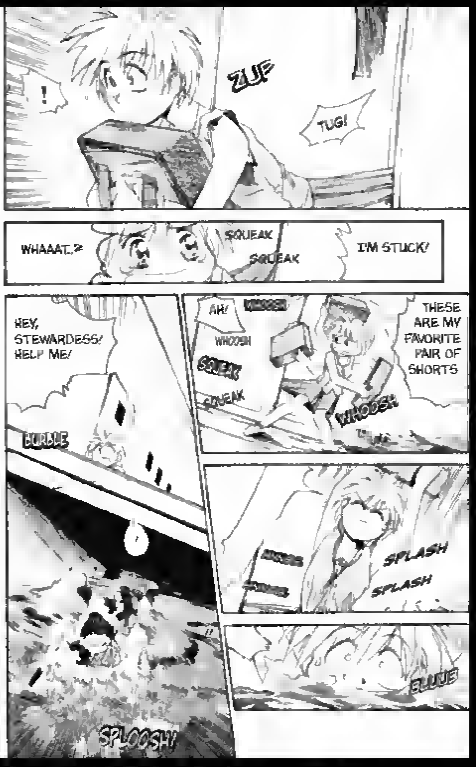
OOPS.
ZZEEE...
AHH...!
SHWIP!
OW!
BONK!
SWOOSH
UHHH.
UM-
YEAH.
ARE YOU OKAY?
?

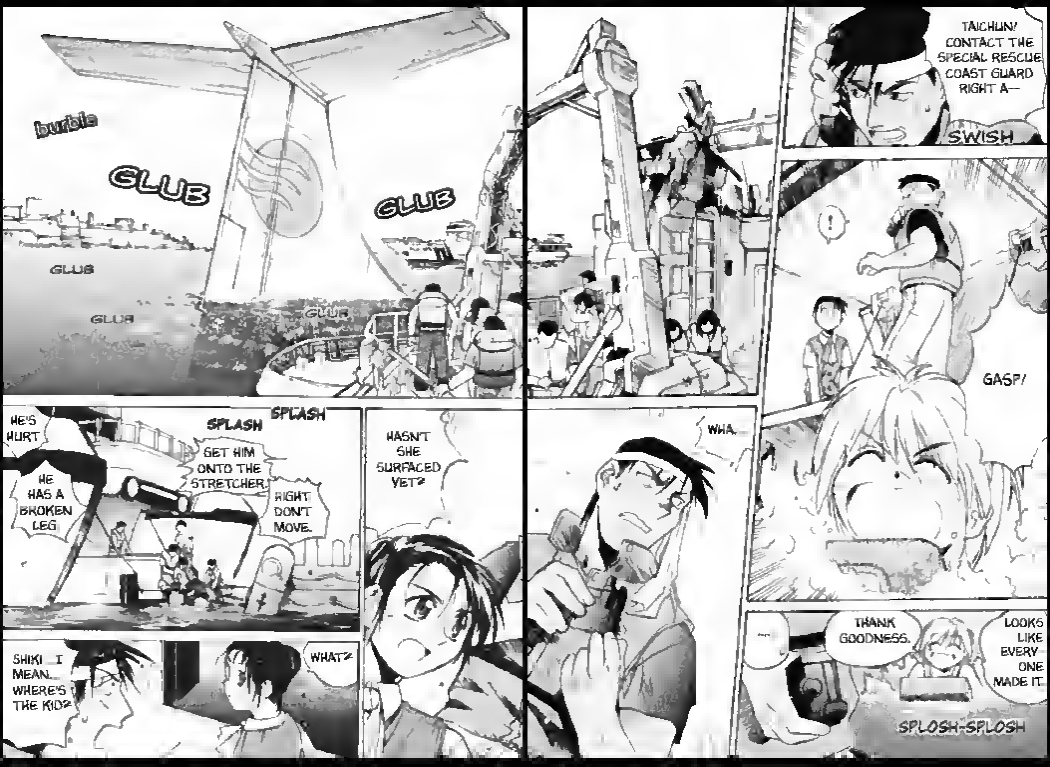
HUH?
ARE YOU HERE TO HELP...?
SORRY...
SPLISH
SPLISH
NO, NO I NEED IT
HE INJURED HIS LEG BETWEEN THE SEATS.
BE CAREFUL.
OKAY
WE HAVE TO HURRY
THIS BOAT IS ABOUT TO-
FWHOOSH
!
ROAR

IT'S STARTING TO TILT AGAIN!
CLUB
CLUB
DAMN!
WHAT THE HELL'S SHE DOING?
TAKE!
CLOMP
CLOMP
CLOMP
WHERE'S SHIKI? ISN'T EVERYBODY ONBOARD?
GRAB
HOW WAS I SUPPOSED TO KNOW? SHE JUMPED BACK INTO THE AIRPLANE ALL OF A SUDDEN.
WHAT?
YOU IDIOT! WHY DIDN'T YOU STOP HER?
SHIKI! GRANDPA'S COMING TO HELP!
CAPTAIN!

WHOA!!
GLUK
GLUK
GLUK
OH NO!
FWHOOSH
HURRY! HURRY UP!
FWHOOSH
IT'S GOING DOWN. IT'S GOING DOWN!
SPLOSH-SPLOSH
LOOK, A LITTLE FURTHER!
THE EXIT!

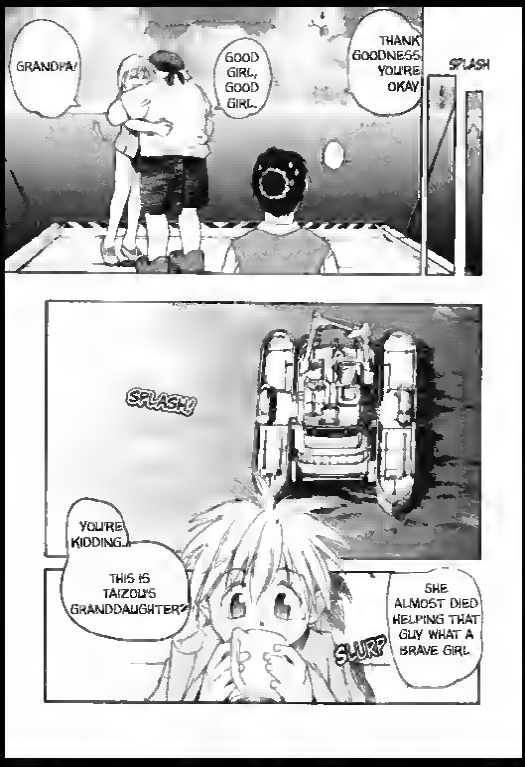
BURBLE
SLAM!
SPLASH
SPLASH!
THERE'S NO TIME TO PUT ON LIFE JACKETS.
GRAB THE SEAT!
GLUB
GOT CHA!
GLUB
GLUB
WHEN YOU'RE IN THE WATER, WATCH OUT FOR THE UNDERTOW FROM THE AIRPLANE.
BURBLE
SPLASH!
LET'S GO!
PING
OKAY.
SLAM
FWISH


!
ZUP
TUG!
WHAAAT..?
SQUEAK
SQUEAK
I'M STUCK!
HEY, STEWARDESS! HELP ME!
BUBBLE
SPLOOSH!
AH!
WHOOSH
SQUEAK
SQUEAK
WHOOSH
THESE ARE MY FAVORITE PAIR OF SHORTS
SPLASH
SPLASH
BLUP!


burble
GLUB
GLUB
GLUB
GLUB
GLUB
TAICHUN! CONTACT THE SPECIAL RESCUE COAST GUARD RIGHT A—
SWISH
!
GASP!
WHA...
HASN'T SHE SURFACED YET?
HE'S HURT
SPLASH
SPLASH
GET HIM ONTO THE STRETCHER!
HE HAS A BROKEN LEG
RIGHT DON'T MOVE.
SHIKI... I MEAN... WHERE'S THE KID?
WHAT?
THANK GOODNESS.
LOOKS LIKE EVERY ONE MADE IT.
SPLOSH-SPLOSH

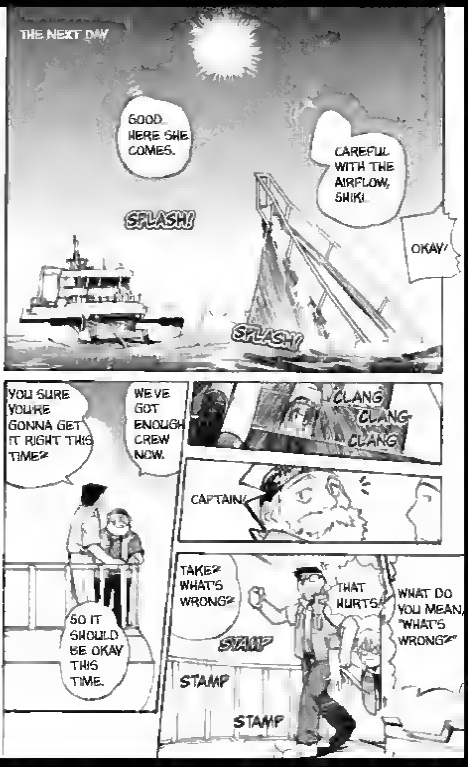
JESUS...
YOU HAD US WORRIED.
HERE. GRAB THIS.
OKAY.
SPLOSH SPLOSH
THANK
HUH?
SLAP
WHAT THE HELL?
ER.. HEE HEE HEE...
DON'T CAUSE ANY MORE TROUBLE! GET YOUR BUTT ON BOARD!
SPLASH
AH!

KERSPLASH!
WHAT THE... WHERE'RE YOUR SHORTS?
BLUR
BLUR
TAKE.
WHAT DO YOU...
...THINK YOU'RE DOING WIT MY GRAND-DAUGHTER...?
GRANDPA
UH... H-HI... CAPTAIN...
DON'T JUMP TO ANY CONCLUSIONS.
GRRR.
POW
WHA...
UGH


GRANDPA!
GOOD GIRL, GOOD GIRL.
THANK GOODNESS YOU'RE OKAY
SPLASH
SPLASH!
YOU'RE KIDDING...
THIS IS TAIZOU'S GRANDDAUGHTER?
SHE ALMOST DIED HELPING THAT GUY WHAT A BRAVE GIRL
SLURP

THE CAPTAIN MUST BE PROUD OF HER.
HEH, HEH HEH... I WONDER WHO SHE TAKES AFTER.
BRAVE MY FOOT! MORE LIKE DIMWITTED, IF YOU ASK ME.
I WONDER WHO SHE REALLY TAKES AFTER.
WHATEVER.
YOU IDIOT
WELL, ANYWAY
EVEN THOUGH IT WAS A BIG ACCIDENT NOBODY GOT HURT.
WHAT WAS THE CAUSE, ANYWAY?
THE COAST GUARD SAID...
...A TOURIST CRUISER WANDERED INTO THE RESTRICTED CHANNEL, OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT...
A TOURIST SHIP

YOU FEELING OKAY NOW?
YUP
BUT... YOU SURPRISED ME. I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE COMING.
SCRUNCH
UM
GRANDPA
I WANNA ASK YOU A FAVOR...

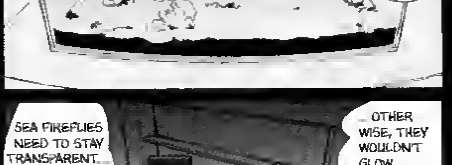

THE NEXT DAY
GOOD. HERE SHE COMES.
CAREFUL WITH THE AIRFLOW, SHIKI.
OKAY!
SPLASH!
SPLASH!
YOU SURE YOU'RE GONNA GET IT RIGHT THIS TIME?
WE'VE GOT ENOUGH CREW NOW.
SO IT SHOULD BE OKAY THIS TIME.
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
CAPTAIN!
TAKE? WHAT'S WRONG?
THAT HURTS!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "WHAT'S WRONG?"
STAMP
STAMP
STAMP

ARE YOU REALLY GONNA HIRE HER?
WE NEED MORE CREW, DON'T WE?
DO YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THAT?
OF COURSE!!
DO YOU THINK A LITTLE KID WILL BE ANY USE?
JUST LOOK AT HER!!
HUH?
SALVAGE DOESN'T MEAN DIGGING UP CLAMS AT THE BEACH..!!
BUT GRANDPA SAID THIS WAS OKAY...
FIRE BUCKET
CAPTAIN...
BUT SHE'S SO CUTE.

ARRGG...
GRUMBLE
ARRRG!
THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING!!
WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO TAKE CARE OF A PET MONKEY!
GO HOME KID!!
A PET MONKEY..?
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT BEFORE I EVEN TRY!!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN!
YOU SMELLY OLD FART!!
O..OLD
OLD FART??
HEY, HEY.
THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TWO TO GET SO EXCITED
HEY GUYS
I DON'T MEAN TO INTERRUPT, BUT...
WHO'S IN CHARGE OF THE PUMP??

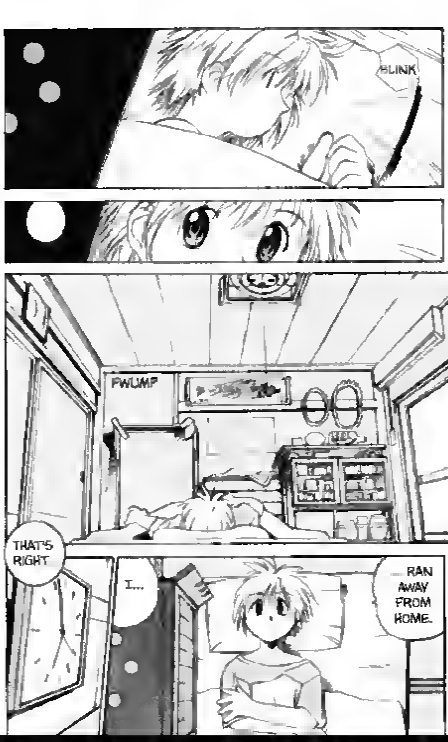
to be continued

IT'S REALLY
BEAUTIFUL


SEA FIREFLIES NEED TO STAY TRANSPARENT.
...OTHERWISE, THEY WOULDN'T GLOW ANYMORE.

THEY CONTINUOUSLY SHED THEIR SKINS, EVEN AFTER THEY BECOME ADULTS.
TEE, HEE.
THAT'S A VERY DEEP STORY.

IS THAT WHY YOU NAMED HER SHIKI (LIKE FIREFLIES)?
YES. EACH OF THE CHARACTERS IN HER NAME COMES FROM OURS.
I WONDER WHAT KIND OF WORLD...
... SHE'LL SHARE HER SMALL LIGHT WITH WHEN SHE GROWS UP


BLINK
FWUMP
THAT'S RIGHT
I...
RAN AWAY FROM HOME.

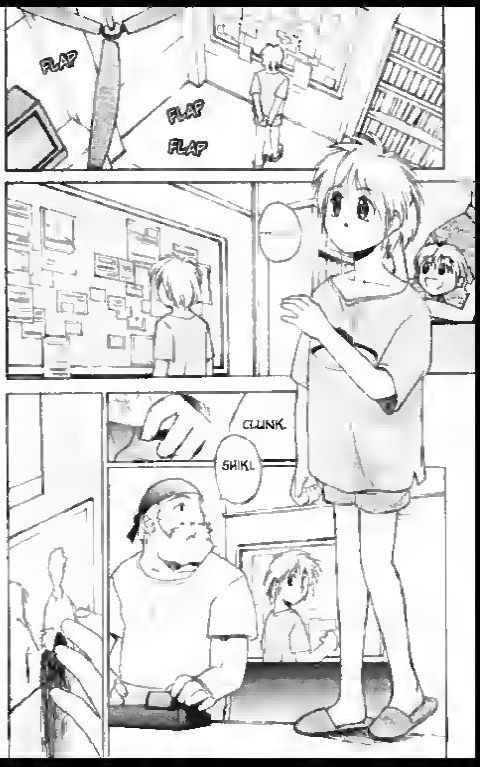
LOG #2 SEA FIREFLY
PING.

IT'S 12 O'CLOCK
TIME FOR GOOD AFTERNOON NIRAI ISLAND NEWS
IN REPLY TO SOME CLAIMS OF ALLEGEDLY BEING INVOLVED IN THE PLANE CRASH OF THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY...
USHIO SEA SERVICE
THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION GROUP, "THE KNIGHTS OF GAIA" ISSUED A STATEMENT...
GOOD MORNING!
FLAP
FLA
FLAP
GOOD MORNING
EVERYBODY

WHAT DO YOU MEAN "GOOD MORNING"?
DO YOU KNOW WHAT TIME IT IS?
I'M GOING TO WORK!!
HUH..? ARE YOU ALREADY GOING HOME, TAKESHI?
GET OUT OF THE WAY!
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
MOVE, MOVE.

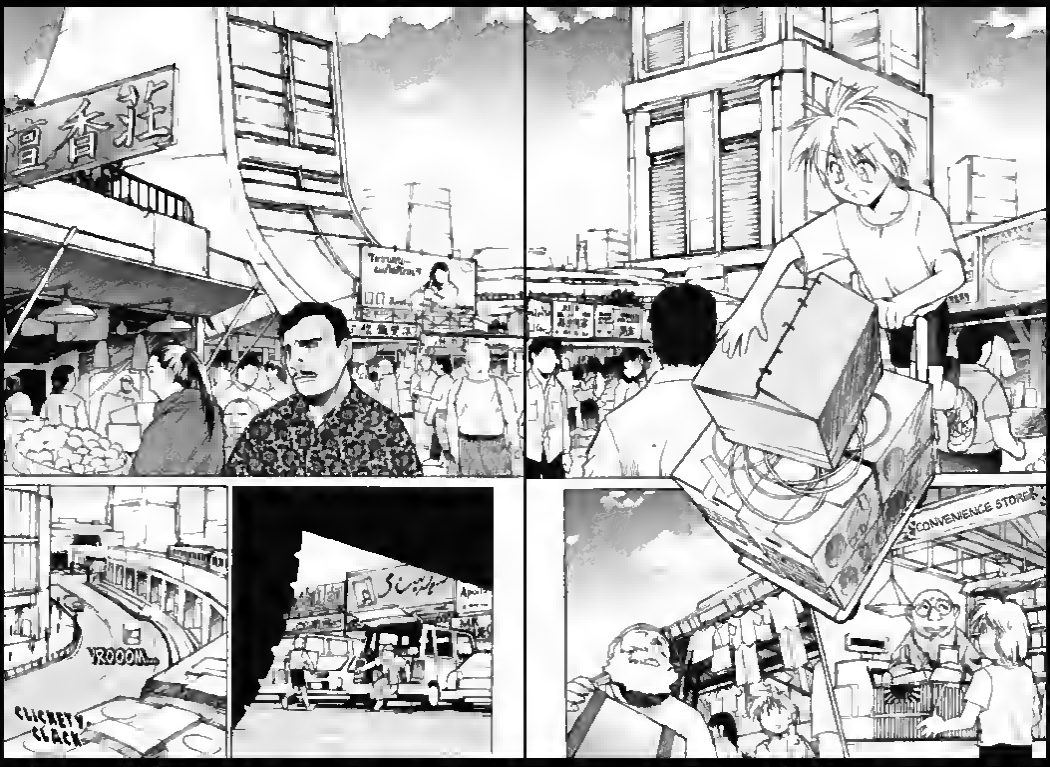
HEE HEE HEE.
I WENT BACK TO SLEEP AGAIN.
JESUS.
I'M GONNA HELP REPAIRING AN UNDERWATER PIPELINE. FOR THE NEXT 30 HOURS I'LL BE AT DEPTH OF 100 METERS.
AH, AH HA
I SEE.
CLICK
HUH? ARE YOU GOING TOO, TAICHUN
EH?
I HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF A WHOLE BUNCH OF PAPER WORK. THERE'S DOCKING THE SHIP FOR IT'S OVERHAUL, THE MEDICAL CLAIMS AND THE INSURANCE. THE LIST GOES ON.
RMBL RMBL RMBL

HEE HEE HEE.
I WENT BACK TO SLEEP AGAIN.
JESUS..
I'M GONNA HELP REPAIRING AN UNDERWATER PIPELINE. FOR THE NEXT 50 HOURS I'LL BE AT DEPTH OF 100 METERS
AH, AH HA
I SEE.
CLICK
HUH? ARE YOU GOING TOO, TAICHUN.
EH?
I HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF A WHOLE BUNCH OF PAPER-WORK THERE'S DOCKING THE SHIP FOR ITS OVERHAUL, THE MEDICAL CLAIMS AND THE INSURANCE. THE LIST GOES ON.
RMBL RMBL RMBL


FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
CLUNK.
SHIKL

GRANDPA HAS TO GO OUT NOW.
WELL THEN...
UM.
I GUESS I'LL STAY AND TAKE MESSAGES
NOPE
I'M GONNA HAVE MY HANDS FULL, I WANT YOU TO COME ALONG AND HELP ME.
REALLY?
YOU WANT ME TO COME?
YUP. WELL, WHAT ABOUT IT? ARE YOU COMING?
YEAH!

I'LL DO MY BEST
I'M SURE I CAN BE OF HELP!


檀香莊
VROOM...
CLICKETY CLACK
CONVENIENCE STORE

WHOA!

WHEW. LOOKS LIKE WE'RE FINALLY FINISHED.
BUT I REALLY ENJOYED MYSELF
I'VE NEVER WORKED WITH SO MANY DIFFERENT KINDS OF PEOPLE BEFORE.
WELL, YOU TIRED?
IS THAT SO?
WELL, GOOD THEN
A LITTLE.
FLICKER

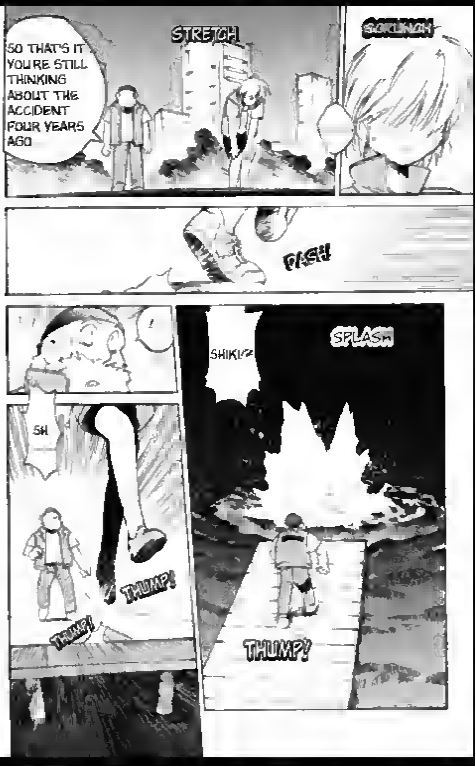
SHIKI, YOU STILL HAVEN'T CALLED YOUR MOTHER HAVE YOU..?
UH
ZIP
I'M SURE SHE'S WORRIED.
I'M GOING FOR A LITTLE STROLL.
GRANDPA.
BEEP

RNNNG...
RNNG.
HELLO.
THIS IS THE NATSUME HOUSEHOLD.
UM... MOM...
NO ONE IS AVAILABLE TO TAKE YOUR CALL.
BUT IF YOU LEAVE YOUR MESSAGE AFTER THE BEEP...
WE'LL GET BACK TO YOU AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. BEEP
...THIS IS SHIKI. I KINDA RAN OUT WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING...
...BUT DON'T WORRY CAUSE I'M OKAY

.....
I'LL CALL AGAIN SOON.....
SPLASH
SPLASH

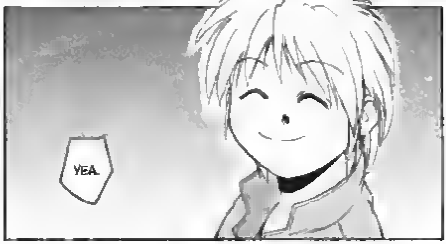
THERE YOU ARE SHIKI.
I'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER...
CLUMP
CLUMP
USHIO SEASERVICE
I'M...
...A SNEAKY KID.
I'VE CAUSED YOU ALL THIS TROUBLE BY COMING HERE.
BUT YOU REALLY DON'T HAVE ..OOM FOR A KID...
...IN YOUR COMPANY, DO YOU?

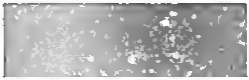
YOU SEE...
...I'M TRYING TO FIGURE OUT HOW IMPORTANT I AM TO MY MOTHER.
SHIKI, WHY DO YOU THINK YOU CAME HERE?
I THOUGHT IF I CAME TO STANDARD BLUE I'D UNDERSTAND WHAT...
...DREW DAD TO THIS OCEAN. WHAT HE WAS THINKING, WHAT HE SAW


SO THAT'S IT YOU'RE STILL THINKING ABOUT THE ACCIDENT FOUR YEARS AGO
STRETCH
SCREECH
FASH!
SHIKI?
SPLASH
SH
THUMP!
THUMP!
THUMP?

WHAT THE...?
I'M OKAY!
SPLAASH
I'M NOT USUALLY LIKE THIS...
RUB
?
I JUST WANTED...
...TO CLEAR MY MIND
?
ZZT
GRANDPA, WHAT'S THIS...?
GST
AH... THAT BIG SPLASH...
...PROBABLY STARTLED THEM.

THOSE ARE SHIKI (SEA FIREFLIES)





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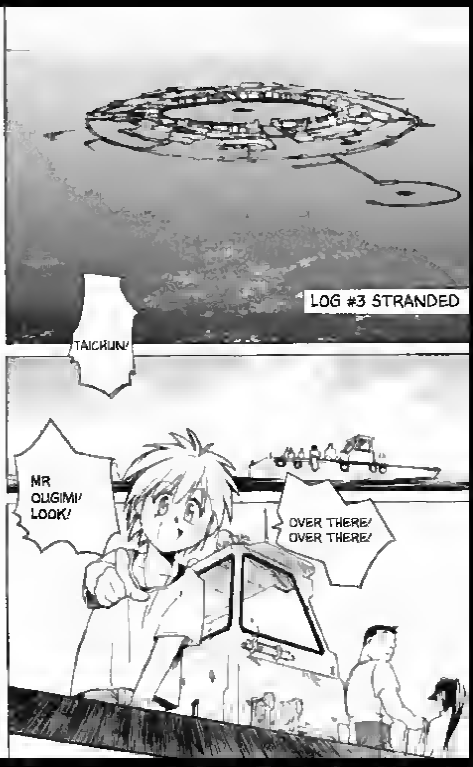

LOG #3 STRANDED
TAICHUN!
MR OUGIMI! LOOK!
OVER THERE! OVER THERE!

DOLPHINS!
SPLASH!
AH, THEY OFTEN COME AROUND HERE.
THEY LIKE TO RIDE THROUGH THE WAKE OF THE SHIP.
WOW
KII
WHOA...
KII
KERSPLASH!

SPLASH
WOW! THEY'RE SO CUTE!!
THEY'RE SO SMART!!
NOT REALLY
W
PSSSSTT...
WHRRR..
WHRRR
THEY'RE ONLY MARINE MAMMALS
...NOTHING MORE AND NOTHING LESS.
NOW, LET'S GET TO WORK.

MR. OUGIMI,
I'M SORRY BUT...
COULD YOU DROP ME AT THE KUBA BARRIER REEF?
KU..A...DON'T TELL ME IT HAPPENED AGAIN.....?
.....THAT'S RIGHT BUT THIS TIME...
IT LOOKS LIKE A MASS STRAND-ING.
EH? WHAT'D YOU SAY?
YOU'LL UNDERSTAND IF YOU COME.

WHYS...
...THIS HAPPENING.
WELL
THUMP
CHANGES IN THE GEOGRAPHY DUE TO RISING SEA LEVELS, DEVELOPMENT OF THE OCEANS HARASSMENT FROM "DOLPHIN WATCHERS," ILLNESS.
THERE ARE MANY CAUSES BUT WE STILL DON'T KNOW FOR SURE.
WHAT WE DO KNOW IS THAT STRANDING.
TUG
HAPPENED BEFORE AND STILL HAPPENS NOW.

TAICHUN
WHAT SHOULD I DO.
CRUNCH
YOU CAN JOIN IF YOU WANT
SNAP
ROLL ROLL
RESCUE WORK IS BASICALLY VOLUNTARY.
OKAY.
I DON'T CARE ABOUT THAT!
BUT, IT NEEDS STRENGTH AND YOUR CLOTHES WILL GET DIRTY FROM BLOOD AND MUD.
COME WITH ME THEN.
THANKS!!
PLEASE!

OH, HERE.
PUT THIS ON SOMEWHERE IT'S EASY TO SEE.
A BADGE?
WE'RE DIVIDED BY EXPERIENCE, SO WE WEAR THESE IDS TO MAKE SURE THINGS RUN SMOOTHLY.
NEW
NAT'SLIME
..WHAT?
GOOG!...
TAICHUN

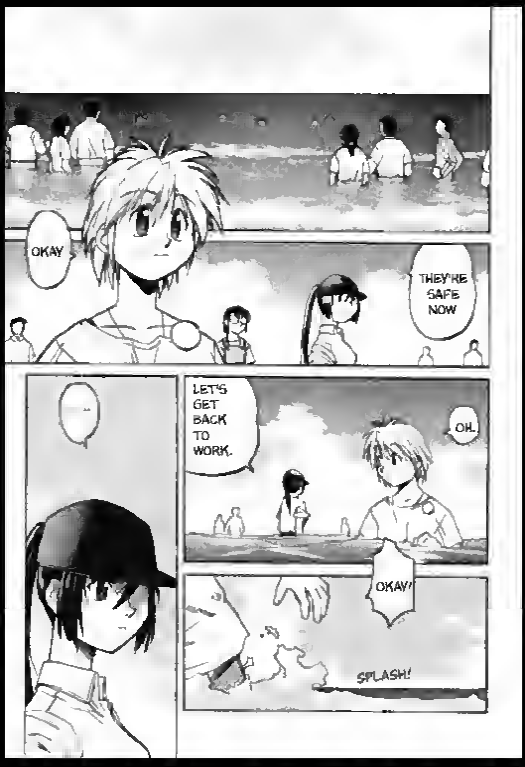
KI
KI
O. OVER THERE! HURRY
YANK
YOUR JOB IS THIS WAY HELP SET UP THE PORTABLE TOILET
MAKE SURE YOU FIGURE OUT HOW WE DO THINGS FIRST
DASH
TAICHUN, OVER HERE! TAKE A LOOK!
I'M COMING

WHAT'S ITS RESPIRATION AND TEMPERATURE?
NINE TIMES A MINUTE AND 38.6 DEGREES.
THAT'S A SIGN OF A HIGH TEMPERATURE AND CARDIOVASCULAR FAILURE.
ARE THE PEOPLE AND MATERIALS HERE YET?
IT'S GONNA BE ANOTHER COUPLE OF HOURS...
PROBABLY...
BECAUSE IT WAS PART OF THE LAST GROUP TO GET STRANDED.
IT'S SKIN HASN'T STARTED TO CRACK YET

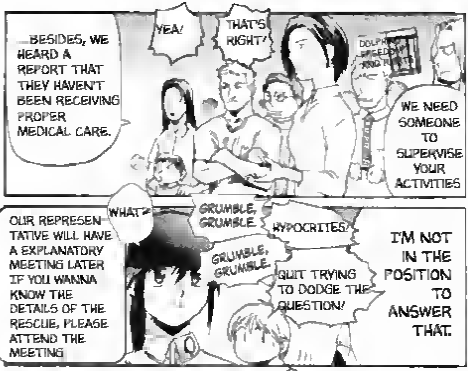
LET'S FOCUS ON RELEASING THE ONES THAT WERE STRANDED RECENTLY
GET THE STRETCHERS AND SLINGS.
RIGHT AWAY
GET EVERY BODY TOGETHER THAT ISN'T HANDLING AN EMERGENCY
VIP
SLIP
CREAK
CREAK
BOING
DON'T WORRY ABOUT EXPERIENCE, WE NEED LOTS OF PEOPLE.
WHOA!
CRASH
BOING
THUMP

PAT PAT PAT
HEE, HEE, HEE
HEY! QUIT PETTING IT SO MUCH.
OH.
OKAY.
OKAY. RIGHT ABOUT HERE SHOULD BE GOOD.
GET THE MARKER TAG
!
KLAKKKK

WE PUT IT ON SO WE CAN STUDY THEIR MOVEMENTS.
IT'LL FALL OFF AFTER A FEW MONTHS SO DON'T WORRY.
....
SPLASH
RELEASE!


OKAY
THEY'RE SAFE NOW
...
LET'S GET BACK TO WORK.
OH.
OKAY!
SPLASH!

...RIGHT, TAKE THESE TO THE TENT, PLEASE.
CLINK CLINK
THEY'RE DRUGS SO BE CAREFUL.
OKAY.


...BESIDES, WE HEARD A REPORT THAT THEY HAVEN'T BEEN RECEIVING PROPER MEDICAL CARE.
YEA!
THAT'S RIGHT!
DOLPHIN FREEDOM AND RIGHTS
WE NEED SOMEONE TO SUPERVISE YOUR ACTIVITIES
WHAT?
GRUMBLE, GRUMBLE
HYPOCRITES!
GRUMBLE, GRUMBLE
QUIT TRYING TO DODGE THE QUESTION!
I'M NOT IN THE POSITION TO ANSWER THAT.
OUR REPRESENTATIVE WILL HAVE A EXPLANATORY MEETING LATER IF YOU WANNA KNOW THE DETAILS OF THE RESCUE, PLEASE ATTEND THE MEETING
HEY!
I ♡ Dolphin
GULP
SCRUNCH
UMM?
SCRUNCH
SCRUNCH
H...
HUH...!!
WHAT KIND OF DRUG ARE YOU CARRYING? SHOW ME!
WHOOSH

EXCUSE ME.
IT'S TOO DANGEROUS TO COME IN WHILE WE'RE WORKING.
SHUT UP!
BAP
GET OUT OF HERE!
AHH
ARK!
SWISH
WHY YOU!
SWISH
VIP!
WHIFF
WHY YOU!!!
GRRR!
SWISH
WHIFF
SWISH
WHIFF
WHIFF
WHIFF
WHIFF
SWISH
DAMMIT

THUD!
I TOLD YOU...
IT WAS TOO DANGEROUS
MUMBLE MUMBLE
AH..!
YOU LITTLE HAG!
HEY!
CUT IT OUT!
I UNDERSTAND YOUR POSITION.
BUT IT'S TRUE THAT THEIR RIGHT TO EXIST IS BEING THREATENED

IT'S HYPOCRITICAL THAT SOME OF THEM ARE BEING SOLD FOR ENTERTAINMENT UNDER THE GUISE OF BEING RESCUED
ALSO,
PLEASE THINK ABOUT WHAT ACTUALLY CAUSED THE STRANDING IN THE FIRST PLACE.
WE WANT YOU TO BE AWARE THAT...
THAT MASSIVE GREEDY DEVELOPMENT IS BEHIND THESE DISASTERS.
WHO ARE THEY?
THEY'RE "THE KNIGHTS OF GAIA."
THEY'RE "GOODWILL PROTESTORS FROM THE PUBLIC."
THEIR SPONSORS ARE...
COMPANIES AND ORGANIZATIONS THAT HAVE ECONOMIC OR POLITICAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST WITH STANDARD BLUE.

"ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION" REALLY COMES FROM THE EGOTISM OF "HUMAN PROTECTION."
IN THEIR CASE IT'S JUST LIKE A BUSINESS.
IT'S DIFFICULT TO ARGUE WHEN YOU PORTRAY SILENT ANIMALS AS THE VICTIMS BECAUSE EVERYONE WORSHIPS NATURE THESE DAYS
ESPECIALLY WHEN DOLPHINS AND WHALES ARE OFTEN CONSIDERED TO HAVE HUMAN-LIKE SOCIAL RELATIONS AND INTELLIGENCE.
THEY ARE THE PERFECT EXAMPLE OF THE PERSONIFICATION AND DEIFICATION OF ANIMALS TO RAISE PUBLIC AWARENESS.
...I WONDER IF LIKING DOLPHINS IS EGOTISTIC, TOO...
CLOP
TAICHUNA
COME WITH ME RIGHT NOW!

THEY STRANDED THEMSELVES AGAIN...!
!
THIS DOLPHIN IS...
...THE SAME AS BEFORE.
IT LOOKS BAD
IT'S REALLY WEAK.
HOW IS IT DOING?
EVEN IF YOU GET IT BACK INTO THE OCEAN, IT'LL JUST KEEP STRANDING ITSELF
WE HAVE TO SEPARATE THIS ONE TO PREVENT INFECTING THE OTHERS
BUT THERE ARE NO FACILITIES NEARBY
NO MATTER WHAT WE TRY, WE'LL JUST BE PROLONGING ITS AGONY
I THINK WE HAVE TO USE THE LAST RESORT

THE LAST ≠ RESORT ≠
THE BARBITURATE INJECTION
IT'S A MERCY KILLING.
SORRY, BUT... COULD YOU EXCUSE US?
IT'S NOT A GOOD IDEA TO ATTRACT ANY OF THE PRESS.
N..NO!!
SQUNCH
YOU CAN'T!!

IT'S TOO CRUEL TO KILL IT//
IT'S STILL ALIVE...
I KNOW IT'S ALIVE.
IT'S RIGHT BEFORE OUR EYES.
BUT THIS ISN'T A TELEVISION SHOW, THIS IS REAL
THAT'S VERY...
...VERY LIMITED
BUT...
WE HAVE TO BE REALISTIC ABOUT WHAT WE CAN DO FOR AN ANIMAL THAT'S IN PAIN

PROFESSOR
WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS DOLPHIN.
OUR SHIP IS BEING OVERHAULED, SO WE HAVE AN EMPTY DOCK
IT FACES THE OUTER OCEAN, AND IF WE PUT A SIMPLE NET ACROSS THE OPENING, WE CAN USE IT AS A POOL.
BUT TAICHUN.
I DOUBT IF IT'LL SURVIVE.
PLEASE.

...
ALRIGHT... I'LL DO MY BEST TO HELP
GET THE BOAT READY! THIS IS AN EMERGENCY!
TAICHUN!
THANK YOU!

YOU KNOW
...IT'S LIKE THE PLACE IS CLOSED WHEN WE DON'T HAVE A SHIP
MAN!
WHEN IT WAS CARRIED HERE, IT WAS IN SUCH ROUGH SHAPE.
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S RECOVERED THAT MUCH
IT'S NOT A MIRACLE.
IT'S ANOTHER TROUBLEMAKER FOR US
DON'T YOU THINK?
SQUEAK
REALLY?

to be continued

ONE MONTH EARLIER
I'M HOME.
SIGH.
NOBODY'S HERE AS USUAL.
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
MOM'S GONNA SLEEP AT THE OFFICE AGAIN.
DING DONG!

COURIER SERVICE!
I HAVE A PARCEL TO DELIVER.
I JUST NEED YOUR SEAL RIGHT HERE.
TO: SHIZURU NATSUME
OH. RIGHT, RIGHT
CLOMP
CLOMP
CLOMP
CLINK
UMMM...
I WAS SURE IT WAS IN THIS BOX...
WHERE IS IT?
HUH?
POP
HE

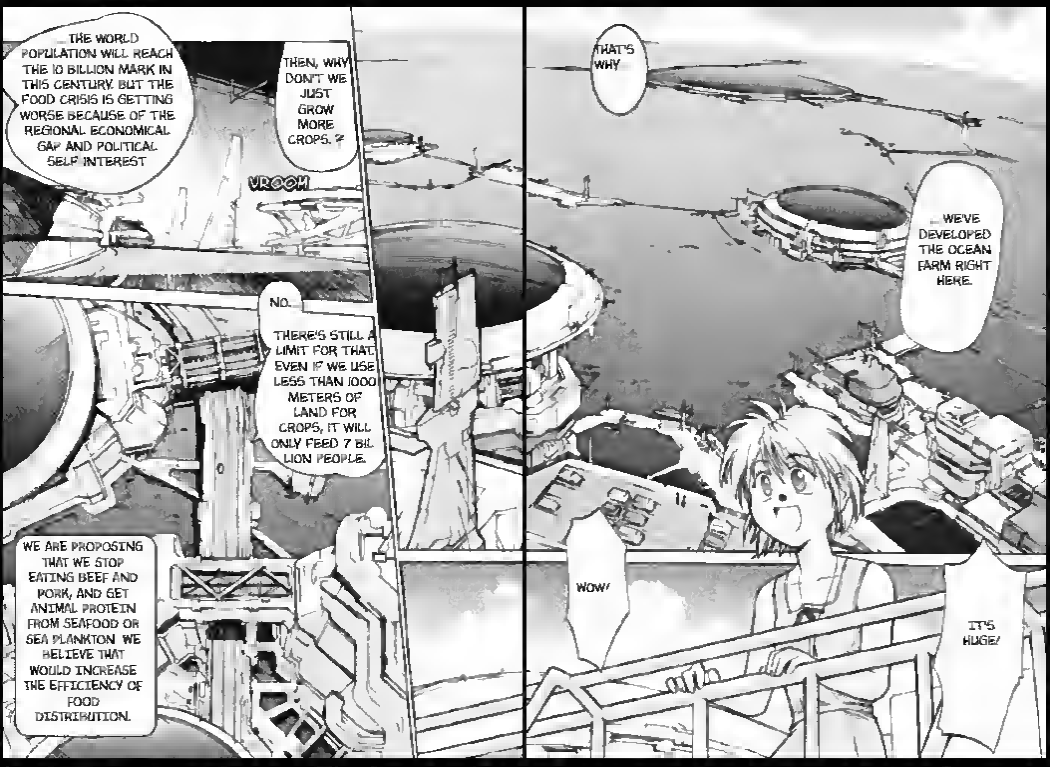
LOG #4 SEA FIREFLY II

HE (THIS DOLPHIN) IS GONNA BE.
A COWBOY IN THE OCEAN FARM?
CAN'T WE TAKE HIM BACK TO THE OCEAN?
YEAH. THE MARINE DEVELOPMENT CENTER HAS FOUND A PLACE FOR HIM.

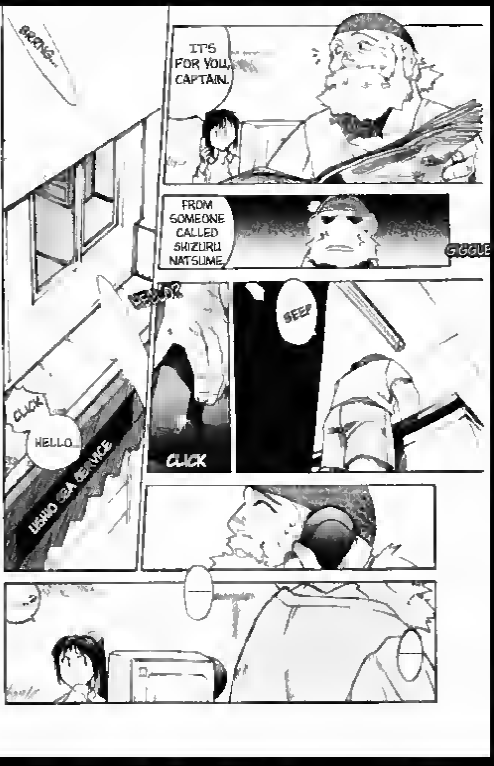
OF COURSE, IT'D BE THE BEST, BUT...
THAT DOLPHIN IS PARTIALLY HANDICAPPED BECAUSE HE WAS ON THE BEACH FOR SO LONG.
BECAUSE DOLPHINS ARE HIGHLY SOCIAL, IT'S DIFFICULT TO RELEASE HIM ALONE IN SUCH A CONDITION.
SPLASH
SPLISH
...I SEE.
IT'S A LITTLE SAD, THOUGH.
HE'S LEAVING NEXT SUNDAY. DO YOU WAN..
YES! I WANNA GO! I WANNA GO!
HEE, HEE... WELL, I LOOK FOR WARD TO YOUR HELP

MARINE DEVELOPMENT CENTER
HELLO, PROFESSOR
AH, I SEE YOU MADE IT
Slam
HELLO.
IT'S BEEN SO LONG
HEY WHERE'S TAICHUN?
SHE'S GOT PAPERWORK TO DO OR SOMETHING.

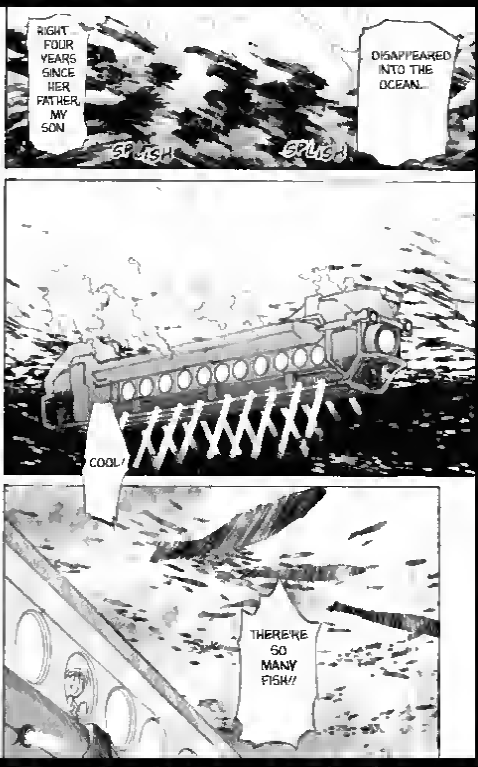
UM, SHE'S HER REPLACEMENT
yeah!
SORRY, SHE'S PROBABLY MORE OF A BURDEN THAN HELP
WELL..
YOU CAME ALL THE WAY
SZZOOOOM
NO, NO. I KNOW SHE'S A GREAT WORKER AND I'M REALLY HAPPY TO HAVE HER TODAY
DO YOU WANNA SEE...
...HIS NEW WORK PLACE?
OH...YES!
I'D LOVE TO!


...THE WORLD POPULATION WILL REACH THE 10 BILLION MARK IN THIS CENTURY. BUT THE FOOD CRISIS IS GETTING WORSE BECAUSE OF THE REGIONAL ECONOMICAL GAP AND POLITICAL SELF INTEREST.
THEN, WHY DON'T WE JUST GROW MORE CROPS.?
VROOM
NO.
THERE'S STILL A LIMIT FOR THAT. EVEN IF WE USE LESS THAN 1000 METERS OF LAND FOR CROPS, IT WILL ONLY FEED 7 BILLION PEOPLE.
WE ARE PROPOSING THAT WE STOP EATING BEEF AND PORK, AND GET ANIMAL PROTEIN FROM SEAFOOD OR SEA PLANKTON. WE BELIEVE THAT WOULD INCREASE THE EFFICIENCY OF FOOD DISTRIBUTION.
THAT'S WHY
...WE'VE DEVELOPED THE OCEAN FARM RIGHT HERE.
WOW!
IT'S HUGE!

THE DOLPHIN SHOULD BE ABLE TO SWIM FREELY HERE NO PROBLEM!
OOSU
IS SHE KAZUKI'S..?
YES.
DID YOU FIGURE IT OUT FROM HER PENDANT?
YEAH
ALSO, THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT HER.
THE WAY SHE LOOKS STRAIGHT AT THINGS IS...
...JUST LIKE HER FATHER


BRRING
IT'S FOR YOU, CAPTAIN.
FROM SOMEONE CALLED SHIZURU NATSUME.
GIGGLE
BEEP?
CLICK
HELLO
USHIO SEA SERVICE
BEEP
CLICK
...?

SIGH...
WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT CAPTAIN?
UH, WELL...
THAT WAS SHIKI'S MOTHER.
HAVEN'T YOU...?
W-WELL, NOT REALLY
I THOUGHT IT'D BE BETTER TO TELL HER ABOUT SHIKI LATER...
...
THAT GIRL IS TRYING TO SETTLE SOMETHING THAT HAS BEEN EATING AT HER FOR THE LAST FOUR YEARS.
SHE'S GETTING SOMETHING OUT OF THE OCEAN.
FOUR YEARS...?

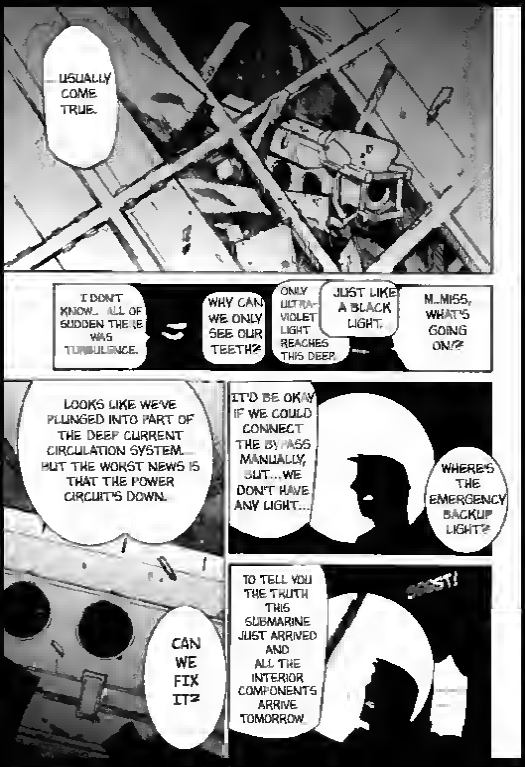

RIGHT FOUR YEARS SINCE HER FATHER, MY SON
SPLASH
SPLASH
DISAPPEARED INTO THE OCEAN...
COOL!
THERE'RE SO MANY FISH!!

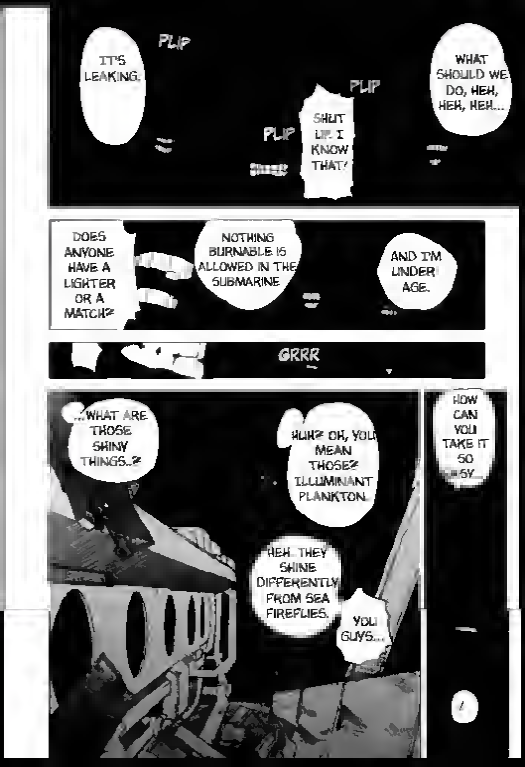
YOU KNOW
THIS ISN'T AN AQUARIUM.
DON'T BE LIKE THAT, YOUNG MAN
I'LL GIVE YOU A SPECIAL TOUR BECAUSE YOU GUYS ARE THE FIRST CUSTOMERS FOR THIS EXCURSION SUBMARINE.
THE FIRST CUSTOMERS?
ARE YOU SURE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING?
JEEZE... IS SHE SERIOUS...?
CAN YOU SEE ANY THING AT THE BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN?
EH?
NO
NOTHING'S THERE.
HA-HA-HA. DON'T WORRY. NO PROBLEM.

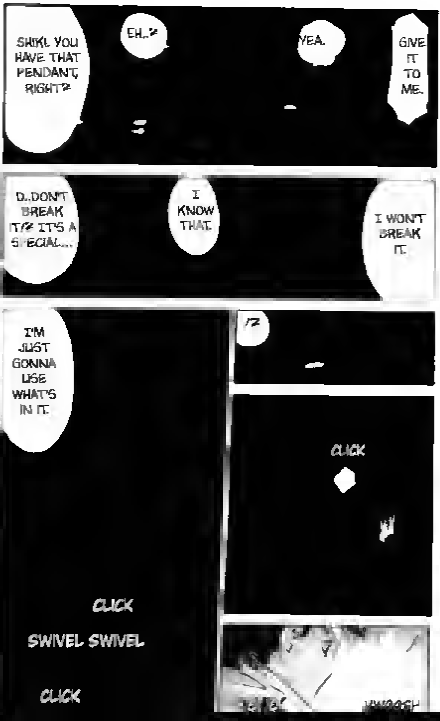
NOTHING...
HER FATHER IS STILL AT THE BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN.
THEY COULDN'T FIND HIS BODY ANYWHERE.
CLATTER CLATTER
THAT HAPPENED FOUR YEARS AGO...
...AND SHE'S STILL...
RATTLE RATTLE
RATTLE RATTLE

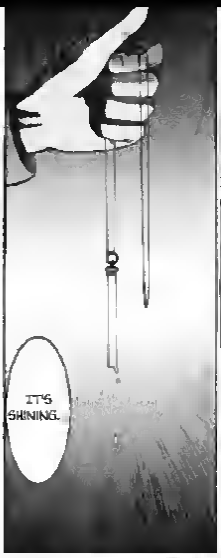
CRUM
CLUNK!
VWWHOOSH!
KAKAKRAKA!
WHAT'S GOING ON!?
RR-RR-RR
WHA, WHAT ?

RR-RR-RR-RR
...AN EARTHQUAKE...
THERE'VE BEEN A LOT LATELY...
KILLING
I WONDER IF...
SHE'S ALL RIGHT
BLOOP!
I THINK.....
...MY WORST PREMONITIONS...

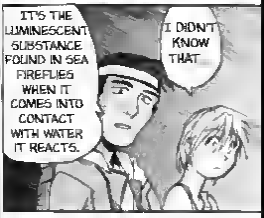

...USUALLY COME TRUE.
I DON'T KNOW... ALL OF SUDDEN THERE WAS TURBULENCE.
WHY CAN WE ONLY SEE OUR TEETH?
ONLY ULTRA-VIOLET LIGHT REACHES THIS DEEP.
JUST LIKE A BLACK LIGHT.
M...MISS, WHAT'S GOING ON!?
LOOKS LIKE WE'VE PLUNGED INTO PART OF THE DEEP CURRENT CIRCULATION SYSTEM... BUT THE WORST NEWS IS THAT THE POWER CIRCUIT'S DOWN.
IT'D BE OKAY IF WE COULD CONNECT THE BYPASS MANUALLY, BUT... WE DON'T HAVE ANY LIGHT...
WHERE'S THE EMERGENCY BACKUP LIGHT?
CAN WE FIX IT?
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH THIS SUBMARINE JUST ARRIVED AND ALL THE INTERIOR COMPONENTS ARRIVE TOMORROW.
CRASH!


PLIP
IT'S LEAKING.
PLIP
PLIP
SHUT UP. I KNOW THAT!
WHAT SHOULD WE DO, HEH, HEH, HEH...
DOES ANYONE HAVE A LIGHTER OR A MATCH?
NOTHING BURNABLE IS ALLOWED IN THE SUBMARINE
AND I'M UNDER AGE.
GRRR
...WHAT ARE THOSE SHINY THINGS...?
RUN? OH, YOU MEAN THOSE? ILLUMINANT PLANKTON.
HEH. THEY SHINE DIFFERENTLY FROM SEA FIREFLIES.
YOU GUYS...
HOW CAN YOU TAKE IT SO EASY.

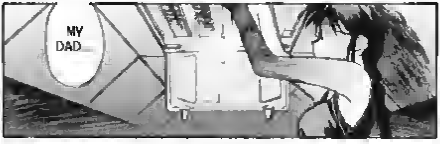

SHIKI, YOU HAVE THAT PENDANT, RIGHT?
EH..?
YEA.
GIVE IT TO ME.
D..DON'T BREAK IT? IT'S A SPECIAL...
I KNOW THAT
I WON'T BREAK IT.
I'M JUST GONNA USE WHAT'S IN IT.
/Z
CLICK
CLICK
SWIVEL SWIVEL
CLICK


IT'S SHINING.

IS THIS GONNA WORK?
EH YES


IT'S THE LUMINESCENT SUBSTANCE FOUND IN SEA FIREFLIES WHEN IT COMES INTO CONTACT WITH WATER IT REACTS.
I DIDN'T KNOW THAT...

KAZUKI. YOUR DAD TOLD ME HOW.
IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE THE HIGHLIGHT OF YOUR BIRTHDAY

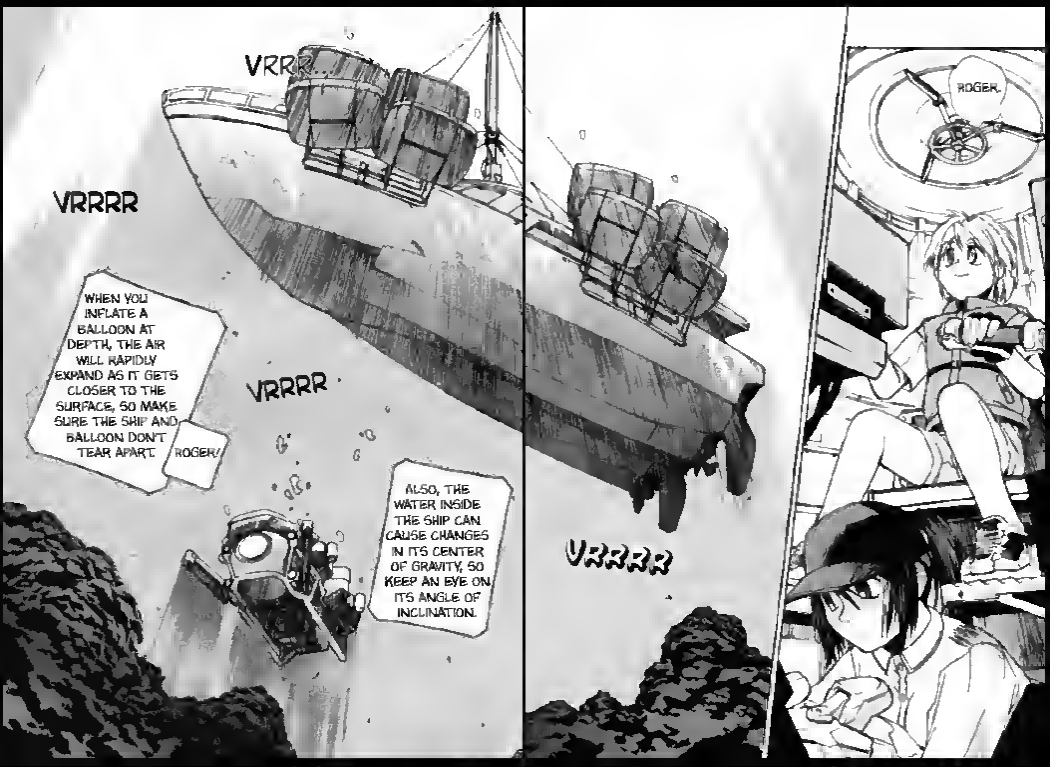

MY DAD...

CLACK-CLACK
VRRRM...
BRRM....
RESTART COMPLETE
BRRRR....
FWOOSH
KEEP THAT ON.
IT'S COLD AT THE BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN.
UM..
THANKS

...
THE BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN ...
...IS LIKE A DESERT.
DAD'S STILL DOWN HERE IN THIS LONELY PLACE.
YANK!
WIPE THAT DROOPY LOOK OFF YOUR FACE.
THUMP
YOUR FATHER WAS ON AND IN THE OCEAN.
...BUT I NEVER SAW HIM WITH A FACE LIKE THAT.

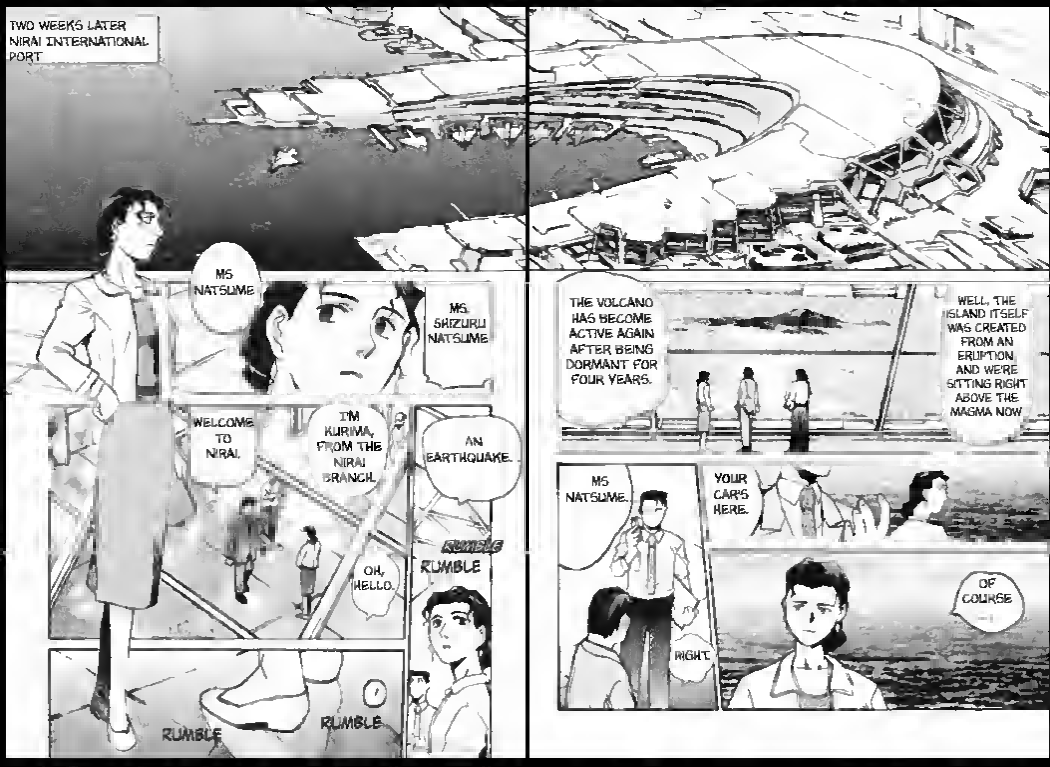
to be continued

LOG #5 REUNION
SHIKI, HOW'S IT GOING DOWN THERE?
ALL THE FLOTATION DEVICES ARE ATTACHED
OKAY, LET'S INFLATE THE BALLOONS
MN?
3
2
1
IGNITE
CLICK CLICK
CLICK CLICK
START THE AIRFLOW KEEP A CLOSE WATCH
OKAY
SPLASH!
SPLASH
SPLASH
FLICKER


VRRR
VRRRR
WHEN YOU INFLATE A BALLOON AT DEPTH, THE AIR WILL RAPIDLY EXPAND AS IT GETS CLOSER TO THE SURFACE, SO MAKE SURE THE SHIP AND BALLOON DON'T TEAR APART.
ROGER!
VRRRR
ALSO, THE WATER INSIDE THE SHIP CAN CAUSE CHANGES IN ITS CENTER OF GRAVITY, SO KEEP AN EYE ON ITS ANGLE OF INCLINATION.
VRRRR
ROGER.

RIGHT.
OKAY.
WELL DONE.
THANK YOU.
TAICHUN.
THEY'RE FINISHED TAPING.
IT'LL BE ON NEXT WEEK.
I CAN'T WAIT.

MAN, I JUST DON'T KNOW WHY EVERYONE GETS EXCITED ABOUT BEING ON TELEVISION.
IT'S JUST A BUNCH OF POP CULTURE MEDIA, WHAT THE BIG DEAL?
BUT IT'S GOOD ADVERTISING.
ADVERTISING WON'T INCREASE THE NUMBER OF SHIPS THAT SINK
HEY!
?
THEY WANT A COMMENT FROM YOU.
TAICHUN!
FOR THE SAKE OF THE COMPANY
WHY DON'T YOU OPEN A FEW BUTTONS ON THAT BLOUSE AND ACT REAL CUTE.
HEH, HEH, HEH...
SMACK!
OOF!
HM
BLOOD?
WHY YOU.
GET BACK UP HERE RIGHT NOW!


TWO WEEKS LATER
NIRAI INTERNATIONAL PORT
MS NATSUME
MS. SHIZURU NATSUME
WELCOME TO NIRAI
I'M KURIWA, FROM THE NIRAI BRANCH.
OH, HELLO.
AN EARTHQUAKE.
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
THE VOLCANO HAS BECOME ACTIVE AGAIN AFTER BEING DORMANT FOR FOUR YEARS.
WELL, THE ISLAND ITSELF WAS CREATED FROM AN ERUPTION, AND WE'RE SITTING RIGHT ABOVE THE MAGMA NOW
MS NATSUME.
YOUR CAR'S HERE.
RIGHT.
OF COURSE

UM... TO OUR FIRST TV APPEARANCE.
SPLASH!
AND THE RETURN OF THE USHIO TO SERVICE.
AND TO EVERY ONE'S GOOD HEALTH
CHEERS!
CHEERS!

THAT'S RIGHT
SO EVERYONE WAS IN IT?
WOW, THAT MEANS YOU'RE CUTE SHIKI.
I SEE.
ON TELEVISION, HUH?
I'LL BET THERE'LL BE TALENT SCOUTS KNOCKING AT YOUR DOOR.
REALLY?
WHAT'LL I DO?
DON'T BE SUCH A BONEHEAD. THEY'RE JUST KIDDING.
BONK
OW
ARE YOU OKAY
YEA.
...HOW DO I ALWAYS END UP LIKE THIS.

IN THIS CENTURY,
PUBLIC HEARINGS BOTH HOUSES OF THE DIET "MANNED DEEP-SEA STATION"
IN SESSION
ONCE AGAIN OUR ENTHUSIASM WILL TURN TO THE OCEAN LIKE THE GRAND NAVIGATION ERA 500 YEARS AGO.
THE BOOST IN OIL PRICES DUE TO THE INCREASE IN DEMAND
URGED US TO EXPAND TO THE DEEP SEA AS A NEW FRONTIER OF ENERGY DEVELOPMENT
FOR EXAMPLE, THE AMOUNT OF METHANE HYDRATE ACCUMULATED IN DEEP SEA IS ESTIMATED FOR APPROXIMATELY 6 TRILLION M2 IN JAPAN ONLY, AND 20,000 TRILLION M2 OVER THE WORLD
THE NIRE UNDERSEA ENGINEERING LABORATORY HAS...
[NOTE: ENERGY CONSUMPTION CYCLE CHART]

IS DAD IN...?
HUH?
WHAT?
WHOOPEE!
YIPPEE! YIPPEE!
TAKESHI'S..
MARRIED
YEAH.
WHEN HE WAS STILL A FISHERMAN.
WE GOT A GOOD CATCH TODAY, TOO!
UH-HUH...
GOOD EVENING, TAIZOU. THANK YOU FOR YOUR INVITATION.
YOU'RE WELCOME, MRS. OOSU
EVERYONE'S WAITING FOR YOU.

KAORI!
CLAP
CLAP
...WHY ARE WE USING AN ENTIRE PAGE FOR A MINOR CHARACTER?
IS SHE...?
SHE'S A DAUGHTER OF THE HEAD OF THE MIDO GROUP THAT IS A LEADER IN ECONOMIC CIRCLES.
WHAT BROUGHT THEM TOGETHER...?
IT'S A MYSTERY
ONE OF THE SEVEN WONDERS OF THE COMPANY...
THAT WOMAN WAS BORN WITH A SILVER SPOON IN HER MOUTH. SHE LIVES AT A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT LEVEL THAN A NORMAL PERSON. BEFORE I KNEW WHAT I WAS HAPPENING,
SHE FORCED ME INTO MARRIAGE.
SHE'S NOT HUMAN. SHE'S A PYTHON. SHE SWALLOWED UP MY ENTIRE LIFE.
HEY, HEY, HEY WHY SUCH A LONG FACE.
AIKIDO LEVEL FOUR.
O...OUCH. S...SORRY/
HEE, HEE, HEE
THEY HAVE SUCH A SIMPLE AND POWERFUL RELATIONSHIP... HE'S DOOMED...

LA-DEE-DA-DEE-DA
HI!
SIDLE
IT'S TIME FOR...
T. TAICHUN
BAM!
AMAMORI SAKI
THE 3-MINUTE COOKING SHOW!
THUD!
YOU'RE DRUNK...?
YOU'RE SO CUTE.
GIGGLE.
YOU'RE REALLY SCARED
HEE HEE.
OOOOF...

WAIT..?
I'M TICKLISH.
TACH!

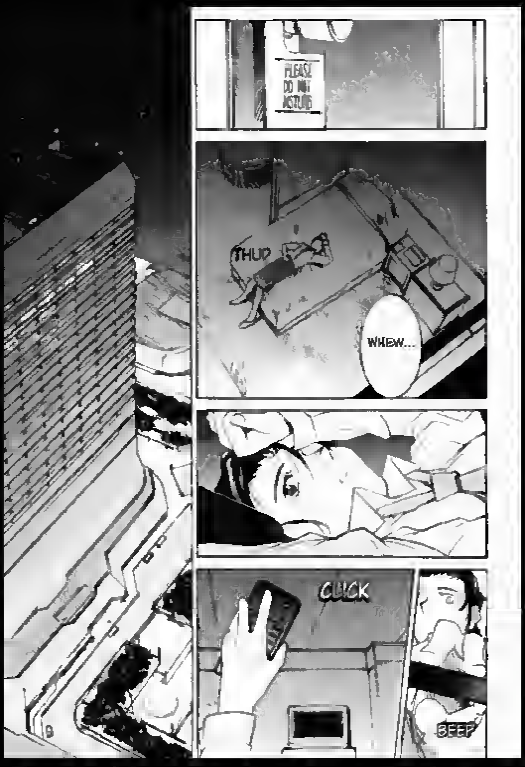
HEE-HEE-HEE. I'M GONNA GET YOU!!!
HEE-HEE-HEE.
HEE-HEE-HEE.
HEE-HEE-HEE.
HEE-HEE-HEE.
YIKES!
EEEEEK!

WOW.....

. . . . . .

ADULTS ARE SO...!
HUH?....

WHEN DOES IT START...?
ZZZZZ...
RIGHT AFTER THIS.
...TYPHOON NO. II IS MOVING NORTHWARD.
TOMORROW'S WEATHER.
NIKAI ISLAND IS EXPECTED TO BE IN THE STORM ZONE TOMORROW MORNING
YIKES, A TYPHOON...
FIVE MORE MINUTES
TICK
PING!
HELLO EVERYONE.
IT'S TIME FOR ANOTHER EPISODE OF "OUR TOWN"
TODAY WE'RE GONNA FEATURE THE HANDY MEN OF THE SEA
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
OOOH!!!


PLEASE DO NOT ACTUATE
THUD
WHEW...
CLICK
BEEP

SZZZT
...THIS IS VERY DIFFICULT WORK.
AND FINALLY, HERE'S THE CONTACT INFORMATION.
FAX!
FOR ORDERS AND INQUIRIES TO USHIO SEA SERVICE...
PLEASE CALL THE NUMBER BELOW.
☎0120-045-045
HUH?
SHIKI?
SEE YOU NEXT WEEK, EVERYBODY
THAT LITTLE BRAT

I HAD A GREAT TIME.
GOOD NIGHT
OKAY, LET'S CLEAN UP THE DISHES!
GOTTCHA!
GOOD NIGHT!!
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
!!

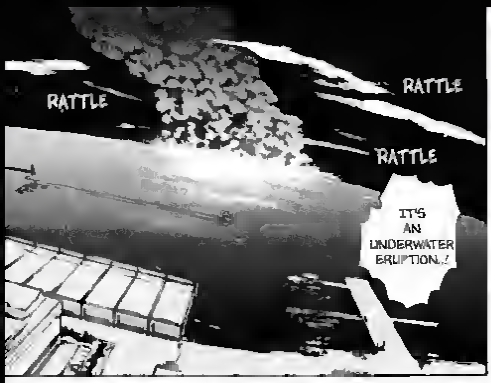
SMASH!
CRASH!!
GRANDPA, WHAT'S WRONG...?
OOOOOH...
CLICK
CRUNCH

YOU DECEIVED ME, FATHER.
NO... SHIZURU...
I DIDN'T MEAN TO DECEIVE.
STARE
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
UM.
MOTHER, I...
CLICK
WHOOSH.

SMACK!
!
I WAS WORRIED TO DEATH... JUST WHAT WERE YOU THINKING...!
...

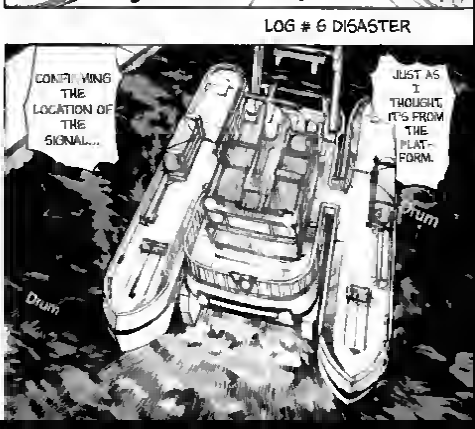
WE'RE GOING HOME.
RIGHT NOW!
NO
LEAVE ME ALONE!
GRAB
SHIZURU!
THERE'S NO NEED TO BE.
CREEK
CREEK
CREEK
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM

EEEK!
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
GRAB
!
HANG ON TIGHT!!
BOOM
RATTLE
LOOK!
BOOM
IT'S COMING FROM THE DIRECTION OF THE PLATFORM!!!
RATTLE
BOOM



to be continued

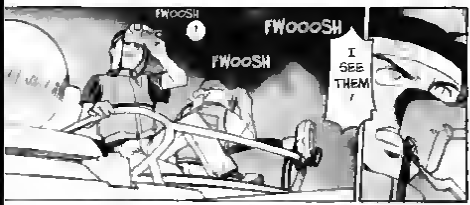
LOG # 6 DISASTER

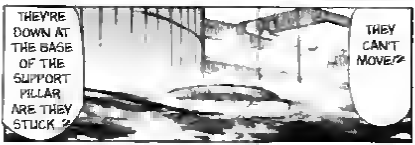


SHIKI!
YOU MORON! WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE!?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN..?
WE'RE NOT GOING ON A PICNIC THIS TIME.
I KNOW THAT I'VE ALREADY SHOWN YOU WHAT I CAN DO, HAVEN'T I?
SO, DON'T GIVE ME THAT "PICNIC" STUFF!!

HEY GRAMPS/ YOU TELL HER...
GRANDPA/
UMM..
SHIKI, YOU'RE STILL NEW AT THIS.
I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL BUT...
I DON'T WANT YOU TO GO UP ON DECK.
FINALLY YOU DO SOMETHING RIGHT.
...IT'S TOO DANGEROUS THIS TIME.
UM. SHIZURU WHY ARE YOU HERE...?
BLINK
I'M HER GUARDIAN.
AH... UM ...I SEE

I CAN SEE IT!
!
Fwish
VRRUM
MAN! THAT'S A MESS...
FWOOSH...
IT'S A SEA OF FLAMES


FWOOSH
!
FWOOOSH
FWOOSH
I SEE THEM!


THEY'RE DOWN AT THE BASE OF THE SUPPORT PILLAR ARE THEY STUCK?
THEY CAN'T MOVE!

THE BURNING OIL COVERING THE BOAT HAS REDUCED THEIR THRUST POWER
THEY'RE DEAD IN THE WATER.
TAICHUN! TEN DEGREES TO STAR BOARD.
SLAM
WE SPOTTED THE LIFEBOAT AT THE BASE!
WE HAVE NO CHOICE.
WE'LL HAVE TO GET CLOSER AND ATTACH A TOWLINE!
I'LL BE BELOW LOWERING THE JACK-STAND SOUND THE HORN WHEN WE'RE GETTING CLOSE!

TAKESHI
I'LL GO TOO
NO WAY
YOU'LL STAY RIGHT HERE AND WATCH
YOU REALLY ARE A CHILD, AREN'T YOU?
DON'T TREAT ME LIKE
WHY'RE YOU TELLING ME WHAT TO DO? I'M PART OF THIS CREW TOO

TRY TO REMEMBER.
WHEN YOU WERE IN TROUBLE OR WERE CONFUSED.
WERE YOU EVER BY YOURSELF?
I'M SURE SOMEONE WAS ALWAYS THERE TO HELP YOU.
FLASHBACK.
IT'S THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ADULTS TO ALWAYS LOOK OUT FOR CHILDREN
THEY WERE JUST BEING NICE...
WAKE UP TO REALITY
EVEN IF IT MAY SEEM LIKE I'M JUST SCOLDING YOU, YOUR IN NO POSITION TO TALK BACK TO ME.

Hmm
Arrgh
RIGHT
SECURE IT WITH THE ARM.
SPLASH
SPLASH
BLUB
BLURP
BLURP

BURBLE
BURBLE
WHA WHAT THE..?!
NO..!
IT'S GAS!
BURBLE
BURBLE
THE SEA WATER IS BOILING?!
THE HEAT FROM THE UNDERWATER VOLCANO HAS CAUSED THE HYDRATED METHANE IN THE ROCK HAS VAPORIZED
THE APPARENT WATER DENSITY IS LOW BECAUSE OF THE GAS BUBBLES! THE BUOYANCY OF BOAT ISN'T ENOUGH TO SUP PORT ITS OWN WEIGHT!!
PUT THE HOVER ENGINES AT FULL SPEED!!
!
WE'RE LOSING BUOYANCY..!?
THEN WHAT ABOUT..

...THOSE PEOPLE IN THE LIFEBOAT?
RATTLE
RATTLE
FATHER! WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE!!
VRRRR...
HMM...
TAICHUN
THE AIR-CUSHION WON'T LAST MUCH LONGER!
RELEASE

W..WAIT!!
CLICK
WE STILL HAVEN'T SAVED THE PEOPLE IN THE BOAT, RIGHT?!
SQUEAL
NO...
SLAM
BUT THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO...
THEY'VE BEEN SUCKED DOWN BY THE BUBBLES..!
GLUG
GLUG
GLUG
BUT...
RATTLE
NO..
RATTLE
AH!!
RATTLE

!!!
BRRMM...
BRRMMMM
THE PLATFORM HAS STARTED SINKING!!
BRRMM...
GET US OUT..!
VRRR...
I'M TRYING!!
CREAK
BRRMM
CREAK
DASH

BRRMM...
zzT
SAFETY LOCK
KERPLUNK
RATTLE
RATTLE
FATHER ...

THERE'S A FLOODING ALERT ON THE PORTSIDE!
DAMMIT! TAKE! GRAB SOME WATERPROOF FABRIC AND CROCKS!!
BRRMM..
SHIKI WHERE'D SHE GO?
RATTLE
RATTLE
RAT
TLE

SHIKL
CLANG

CAN YOU HERE ME/?
I'M HERE TO HELP YOU, PLEASE RESPOND/
IS THIS AN UNOFFICIAL RESCUE TEAM/?
PLIP PLIP
THANK GOD/ LIFT US OUT OF HERE, FAST/!
CREAK
GOTTCHA/

BLOOP
BLOOP
BALLOONS INFLATED!
HSSSS
WE'RE GETTING OUT OF THESE BUBBLES.
BLINK
BLINK
BLINK
HURRY... THE WATER LEVEL IS GETTING HIGHER.
ROGER!
BEEP
BLIP
crackle
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
WHOA
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CAN YOU HEAR ME YOU LITTLE IDIOT!!
CRACKLE
BONK

YOU LEFT WITHOUT ANY NAVIGATION OR SUPPORT!!
VRRR
DAMN... FINALLY WE GOT THROUGH
TAKESHI
CRACKLE
CRACKLE

CRACKLE
CRACKLE
UM...
HOW'S IT GOING DOWN THERE/?
WELL/?

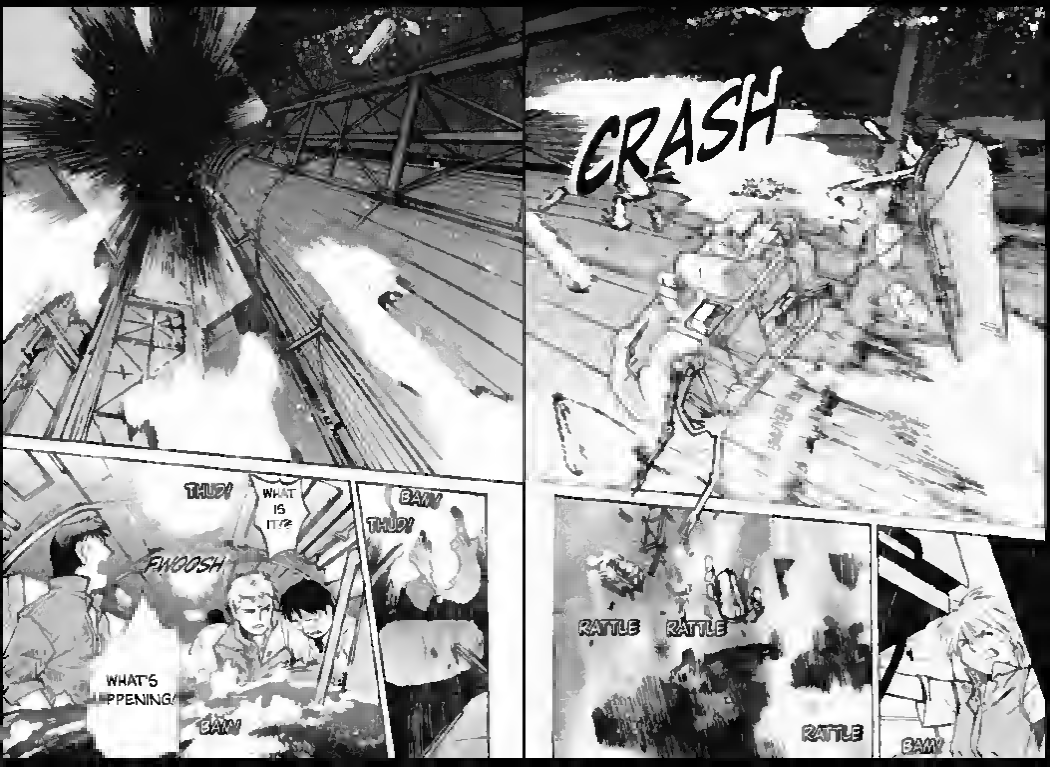
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
I'M SORRY
APOLOGIZE TO SHIZURU FIRST.
CRACKLE
...I SEE. FIRST GET TO THE SURFACE, THEN I'LL GIVE YOU WHAT FOR.

I'M PUTTING HER ON NOW.

SHIK!
CRACKLE
CAN YOU HEAR ME..?
UH.
YEA
IF I MADE YOU DO THIS...
...IT'S PROBABLY ME THAT HAS TO APOLOGIZE.
BUT...
...I WAS SO WORRIED THAT I HAD TO STOP YOU.
I WAS AFRAID THIS OCEAN MIGHT SWALLOW MY DAUGHTER TOO...
...JUST LIKE FOUR YEARS AGO...

MOM...
BRASH
BRASH
BOOM!
!
CRASH!
HOLY SMOKE..
SHIZURU

NOTE: BEST I CAN TELL, THIS IS THE ONLY PAGE(S) READ FROM RIGHT TO LEFT. WEIRD
CRASH
...COMING DOWN!!
!!
THE PLATFORM'S
CRASH!
SHIKI!
GET OUT OF THERE RIGHT NOW!!


CRASH
THUD!
WHAT IS IT?
FWOOSH
BAM!
THUD!
WHAT'S
PPENING!
BAM!
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
BAM!

TRYING TO
I'M...
P.PLEASE
CALM DOWN!
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
WE CAN'T TAKE MUCH MORE OF THIS! HURRY!
CRACKLE
KERCHUNK!
CRACKLE
RIP!
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
HSSss
SHIK!!
ANSWER ME! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
CLANG

T-03:00
EMERGENCY EJECTION
FWASSH
FWASSH
I'M OKAY
!
BUT... I'VE LOST THE PROPELLER AND SOME OF THE BALLOONS...
I EVEN OPENED THE EMERGENCY BALLOTE, BUT I STILL DON'T HAVE ENOUGH BUOYANCY
I'M ASCENDING TOO SLOW
THE RESCUE IS ON ITS WAY.
HANG ON UNTIL...
NO
WE CAN'T WAIT THAT LONG.
01:14 sec

...SHIKI.
I WAS JUST A KID FOUR YEARS AGO. THE DAY DAD SANK INTO THIS OCEAN.
I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT WAS HAPPENING.
I COULD ONLY WATCH ...
IF I ACT LIKE A USELESS CHILD AGAIN.
DAD WILL BE LOST EVEN FURTHER...
SHIKI?
WHAT ... ARE YOU.

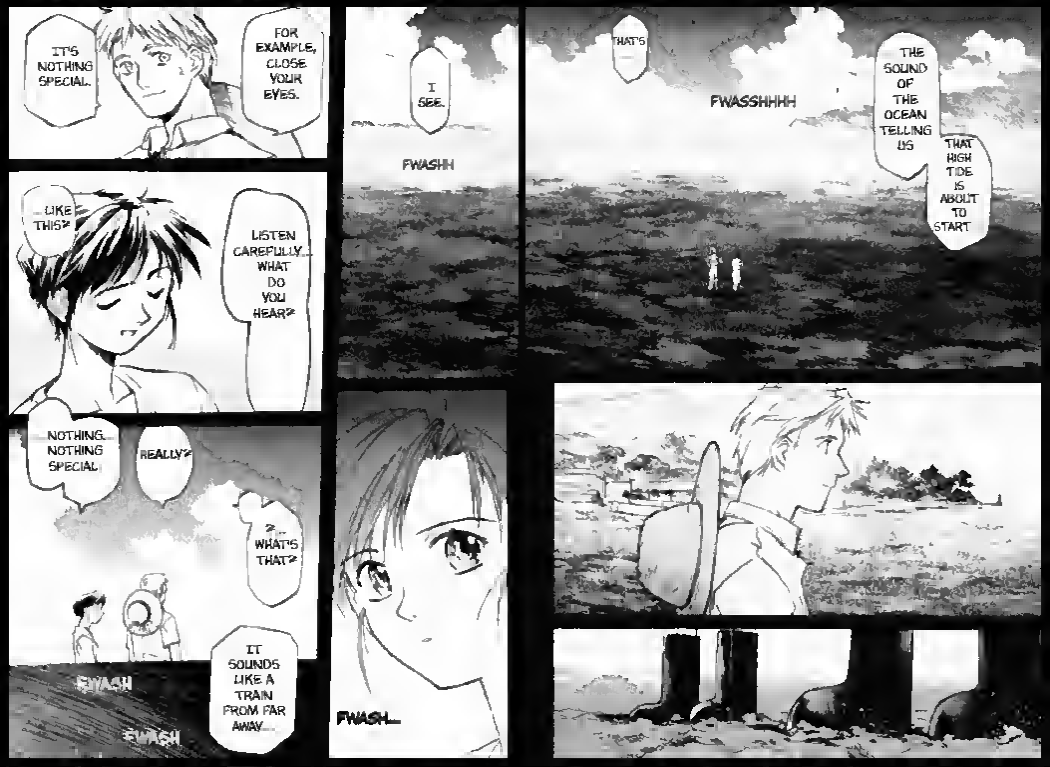
EMERGENCY EJECTION T-00:23 sec
I'M GONNA HELP THEM.
I'LL CREATE MORE BUOYANCY, IF I DROP THE HEAVIEST BALLAST
B..BALLAST?
ARE YOU SAYING... YOUR PRESSURE HULL...
I'M SORRY.
MOTHER.
TICK
EMERGENCY EJECTION T-00:00 sec

to be continued

SPLISH
SPLASH
SQUISH
LOG #7 MEMORIES
SQUISH SQUISH
WHEW

EXCUSE... ME...
IS YOUR NAME... KAGARI?
HUH?
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
YES.
?
OH...
THE GUY AT THE MARITIME RESEARCH CENTER TOLD ME YOU WERE HERE.
THE SURVEY SCHEDULE WAS CHANGED AND I WAS TOLD TO CONFIRM IT WITH YOU RIGHT AWAY...
DO YOU ALWAYS WORK HERE?
MM ...
NOT ALWAYS HERE... BUT I USUALLY WALK ON THE BEACH...
EVERYDAY?
YEAH... ALMOST ...
THANK YOU SO MUCH

DON'T YOU GET BORED..?
NOPE.
NEVER.
YOU HAVE TO COME TO THE OCEAN TO LEARN ABOUT IT
THE WARMTH OF THE WATER UP TO MY ANKLES TELLS ME WHEN THE FARMED OYSTERS WILL START PRODUCING EGGS WHEN THE SEAGULL'S CRIES TONE LOWERS I KNOW THAT THE TIDE WILL CHANGE.
WHEN I WALK ON THE BEACH DURING A FULL MOON IN THE SUMMER, I CAN SEE HORSESHOE CRABS MATING...
REALLY
IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU HAVE TELEPATHY


IT'S NOTHING SPECIAL.
FOR EXAMPLE, CLOSE YOUR EYES.
I SEE.
FWASH
THAT'S...
FWASSHHHH
THE SOUND OF THE OCEAN TELLING US
THAT HIGH TIDE IS ABOUT TO START
LIKE THIS?
LISTEN CAREFULLY... WHAT DO YOU HEAR?
NOTHING... NOTHING SPECIAL
REALLY?
?... WHAT'S THAT?
IT SOUNDS LIKE A TRAIN FROM FAR AWAY...
FWASH
FWASH
FWASH...

KAZUKI KAGARI
HUH?
THAT'S MY NAME.
AND YOU?
SHIZURU...
SPLASH!
... NATSUME ...

12 YEARS LATER: AUGUST, 2020
SPLASH!
SHIKI! STOP THAT!
LOOK AT THE CAMERA...
HI!
A BIRD!
CLICK

HEY! SHIKI!
DASH
MR BIRDY!
HA, HA, HA.
SHIKI'S REALLY ACTIVE, ISN'T SHE?
YUP
SHE CAN'T STAND STILL.
SHIZURU THINKS SHE ACTS TOO CHILDISH.
IT'S NO BIG DEAL.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO RUSH HER.
KAZUKI!
WHERE DO YOU WANT THE XBT CONTAINER?
UM...
IT SHOULD GO AT THE STERN BUT...

... I CAN'T GET MY STUDENTS TO CARRY THAT STUFF, YOU DON'T HAVE TO...
NO, NO
THAT'S MY JOB
SORRY ABOUT ALL THE TROUBLE MY RESEARCH IS CAUSING YOU.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
IT'S PART OF OUR JOB TO OFFER CHARTERS FOR RESEARCH ORGANIZATIONS.
BUT MOST OF ALL...
...I'M HAPPY TO SPEND TIME WITH YOUR LITTLE GIRL.
I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT.

FOR A LONG TIME, UNTIL THE LATE 19TH CENTURY
PEOPLE THOUGHT THAT MARINE LIFE COULD ONLY LIVE NEAR THE SURFACE OF THE OCEAN.
THE DEEP SEA WAS CONSIDERED TO BE A DARK LIFE LESS WORLD.
REALLY
HOWEVER, IT WAS JUST A GUESS. NOW WE KNOW THAT THEY WERE COMPLETELY WRONG
THE DEEP SEA IS INCREDIBLY COMPLEX...
...AND IT'S A WORLD CONTAINING A VARIETY OF LIFE-FORMS.
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

ALSO, THERE ARE PLACES LIKE OASES AT THE BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN.
OASES?
CLICK
HUH?
HMF.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING UP SO LATE?
WE'RE READING A BOOK!
IT'S ABOUT DEEP-SEA LIFE.
DEEP-SEA?
UGH.
UMBRELLAMOUTH GULPER (EURYPHARYNX PELECANOIDES)
FLIP

GROSS...
HEY!
KISS
OKAY THAT'S IT. IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO GET TO BED.
AWWW
SHIKI.
WE'LL LEAVE THE FUN UNTIL TOMORROW
...OKAY.
LET'S DO IT TOMORROW.
GOOD NIGHT.
RIGHT.
GOOD NIGHT.

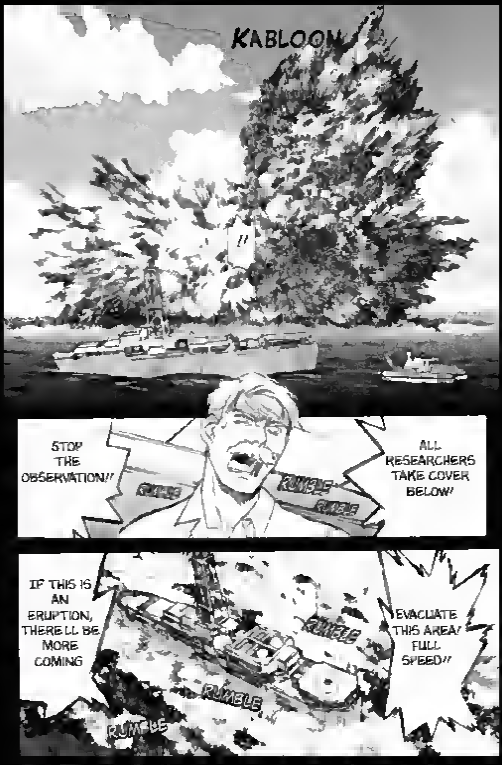
SLAM
SHE ONLY LISTENS TO YOU.
CLICK
?
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
HUH? WHERE'D YOU GET THAT?

SHIKI'S BIRTHDAY IS SOON.
THIS IS HER PRESENT.
REALLY? DID YOU MAKE IT?
YUP
IT WAS A LITTLE TRICKY
I WONDER IF SHE'LL LIKE IT OR NOT...
DON'T WORRY.
I'M SURE SHE'LL CARRY IT AROUND ALL THE TIME.
DEFINITELY.

HUH?
WHERE'S SHIKI?
I SEE. I GUESS THAT'S MY FAULT.
AH. HEH...
SHE'S STILL IN BED.
SHE STAYED UP TOO LATE LAST NIGHT.
HMF!
OH YEA.
KROOSH
I'M ON MY WAY.
IT'S TIME.
RIGHT.

SEE YOU SOON
CLANK
POSITION THE SUBMARINE!
RELEASE THE MAIN LASHING
REMOVE THE A-FRAME.
CRRRK
UNFASTEN THE SUPPORT BOLT
SPLASH!
SPLASH
TOUCH DOWN!
...ALL SYSTEMS NORMAL.
OPENING VENT VALVES.
BEGINNING DESCENT
...
TAP

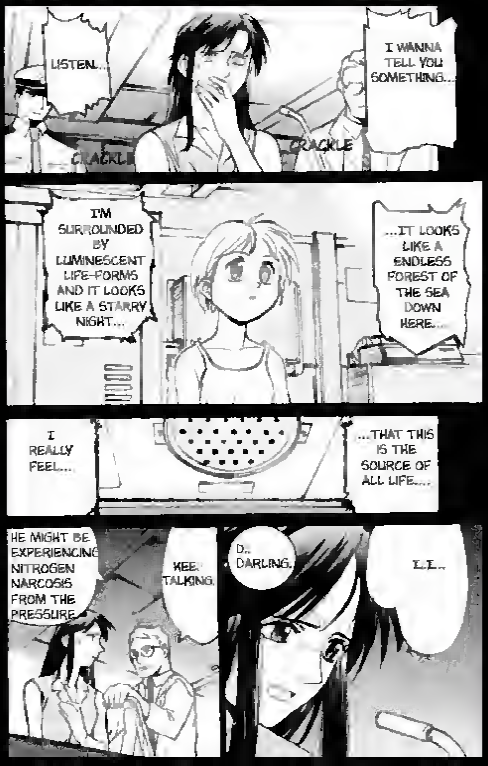
SPLASH!
SPLASH!
.....
.....
.....
WHAT'S GOING ON?
UH...WELL...
CLICK
KAGARI SENT SOME WATER SAMPLE DATA FROM HIS SUBMARINE...
BUT THE CONCENTRATION OF MAGNESIUM IS UNUSUALLY HIGH.
WHEN THE UNDERWATER ERUPTION OCCURRED OFF ITO IN 1965...
...THERE WAS A SIMILAR PHENOMENON...


KABLOOM
!!
STOP THE OBSERVATION!!
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
ALL RESEARCHERS TAKE COVER BELOW!!
IF THIS IS AN ERUPTION, THERE'LL BE MORE COMING
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
EVACUATE THIS AREA! FULL SPEED!!

RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
Boom
THE SUBMARINE...WHAT ABOUT KAGARI?
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
CONTACT HIM!
THE CONNECTION HAS BEEN CUT!
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
I CAN'T CONTACT HIM THROUGH ALL THIS INTERFERENCE AND AIR BUBBLES!!
RATTLE
WE DON'T KNOW...
RATTLE
RATTLE
...WHAT'S GOING ON DOWN THERE!!

18 HOURS LATER.
FLAP
FLAP
YOU SHOULD GET SOME REST...
NO.
I WANNA WAIT...
.....
BAM
MRS. KAGAMI!!
COME THIS WAY!
WE GOT THROUGH TO YOUR HUSBAND!

IT'S ME
CLICK
I'M HERE NOW.
AH.
SHIZURU ?
ARE YOU OKAY? WHERE ARE YOU?
THE SUB'S IN REALLY BAD SHAPE.
BOTH THE MAIN AND SECONDARY CONTROL CIRCUITS ARE GONE. I CAN'T USE THE EMERGENCY FLOATATION SYSTEM.
PROBABLY IT'S NO GOOD UNLESS WE DIRECTLY PICK IT UP FROM THE OUTSIDE.
CRACKLE
BUT...YOU CAN'T GIVE U-
CRACKLE
NO...I'M READY NOW.
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
THE HATCH HAS STARTED TO BUCKLE. IT'LL ONLY LAST A FEW MORE MINUTES.

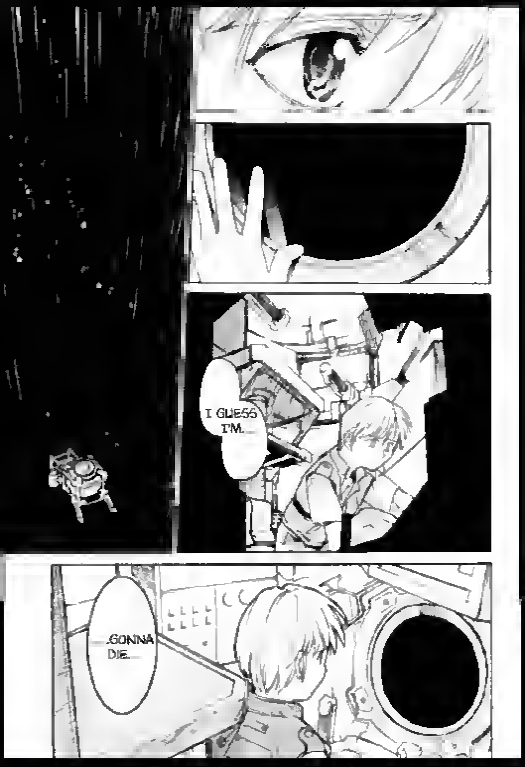

LISTEN...
I WANNA TELL YOU SOMETHING...
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
I'M SURROUNDED BY LUMINESCENT LIFE-FORMS AND IT LOOKS LIKE A STARRY NIGHT...
...IT LOOKS LIKE A ENDLESS FOREST OF THE SEA DOWN HERE...
I REALLY FEEL...
...THAT THIS IS THE SOURCE OF ALL LIFE...
HE MIGHT BE EXPERIENCING NITROGEN NARCOSIS FROM THE PRESSURE.
KEE. TALKING.
D.. DARLING..
I..I...

NO. DON'T WORRY...I'M SORRY
CRACKLE
IS SHIKI THERE?
YES
SHE'S RIGHT HERE.
SHIKI
DAD WON'T BE ABLE TO COME BACK ANY MORE.
I STILL HAVE LOTS OF THINGS I WANNA TELL OR TEACH YOU...
I'M REALLY SORRY ...
BUT I BELIEVE YOU CAN ILLUMINATE YOUR WAY ON YOU , OWN, SHIKI.
EVEN IT MIGHT BE JUST A TINY LIGHT RIGHT NOW...

YOU'LL SEE WHAT I'M LOOKING AT RIGHT NOW...
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
...SOMEDAY, I'M SURE.
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CRUNCH!
...CONFIRMED AS A CRUSHING SOUND

to be concluded

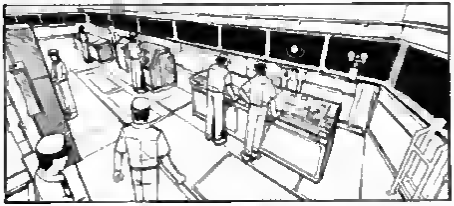
LOG #8 SHIKI


I GUESS I'M...
...GONNA DIE...

FLICKER
FLICKER
?
SEA FIREFLIES?

SPLASH!
CRASH
SPLASH!
PLH 297

CRASH!
SPLASH!



SOMEONE'S DYING OVER HERE.
CRASH!
YOU CAN TAKE CARE OF THE OIL LATER.

HAVE THE OIL COAGULANTS BEEN SPREAD?
SPEED IS ESSENTIAL. OUR SUCCESS IN COLLECTING THIS OIL DEPENDS ON THE FIRST HALF DAY!

A PRIVATE VESSEL WON'T EVACUATE THE AREA?
IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE THE FAMILY OF THE CASUALTY

I'VE WARNED THEM SO MANY TIMES.
CRACKLE
HEY! DON'T IGNORE US!!

PLEASE CALM DOWN. WE'RE ALSO WORKING ON THE RESCUE.
BUT FIRST WE HAVE TO LOCATE THE INDIVIDUAL.
IT'S USELESS TO PUT A RESCUE SUB IN THE WATER WITHOUT KNOWING WHERE TO LOOK.

IT'S EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO PICK OF THE LOCATOR SIGNAL AT THE MOMENT.
THE THERMAL LAYER IS DEFLECTING OUR SONAR, NOT TO MENTION OF THE ROUGH SEAS UP HERE, THEN THERE'S THE DOPPLER SHIFT FROM THE VIBRATION OF OUR VESSELS.

THE CONDITIONS ARE JUST TOO POOR.
WE ALREADY KNOW THAT!!
GRRR

WHAT I'M SAYING IS...
TAKE THE HELM
YOU'RE UP
W-WAIT JUST A MIN...
SLAM
I'M GONNA CHECK ON SHIKI'S MOTHER.
SURE

YOU STILL HAVEN'T LOCATED HER.
YEA.
BUT ALL THE RESCUE TEAM.
WILL MAKE SURE WE GET SHIKI BACK
I SEE.
SHE WAS WEARING THAT PENDANT.
SHE MUST HAVE FOUND IT BY HERSELF..
AS SHE GETS OLDER SHE ACTS MORE AND MORE LIKE HER FATHER.
WHEN I LOOK INTO HER EYES,
ALL THE MEMORIES I HAVE SHUT OUT SEEP BACK INTO ME LIKE WATER.

SHE'S BEEN TRYING TO COMPREHEND THE MEANING OF HER FATHER'S DEATH FOR THE LAST FOR YEARS
BUT I WAS
...AFRAID OF COMPENSATING FOR WHAT I'VE LOST WITH SOMETHING ELSE. I WAS ALWAYS HIDING MY WOUNDS.
I GUESS I'M PAYING.
...FOR MY MISTAKES NOW.
...
...EVEN IF THAT WERE TRUE...
...THE REALITY IS THAT YOU'RE HER MOTHER.
INSTEAD OF WALLOWING IN GRIEF, YOU SHOULD BELIEVE THAT YOUR DAUGHTER IS COMING BACK.
BUT
SHE'S STILL A CHILD AND IS ALL ALONE NOW!

IT'S GONNA BE OKAY
SHIKI HAS GROWN UP A LOT.
MORE THAN YOU MAY THINK.
RRR....
Burble
THIS LOOKS...

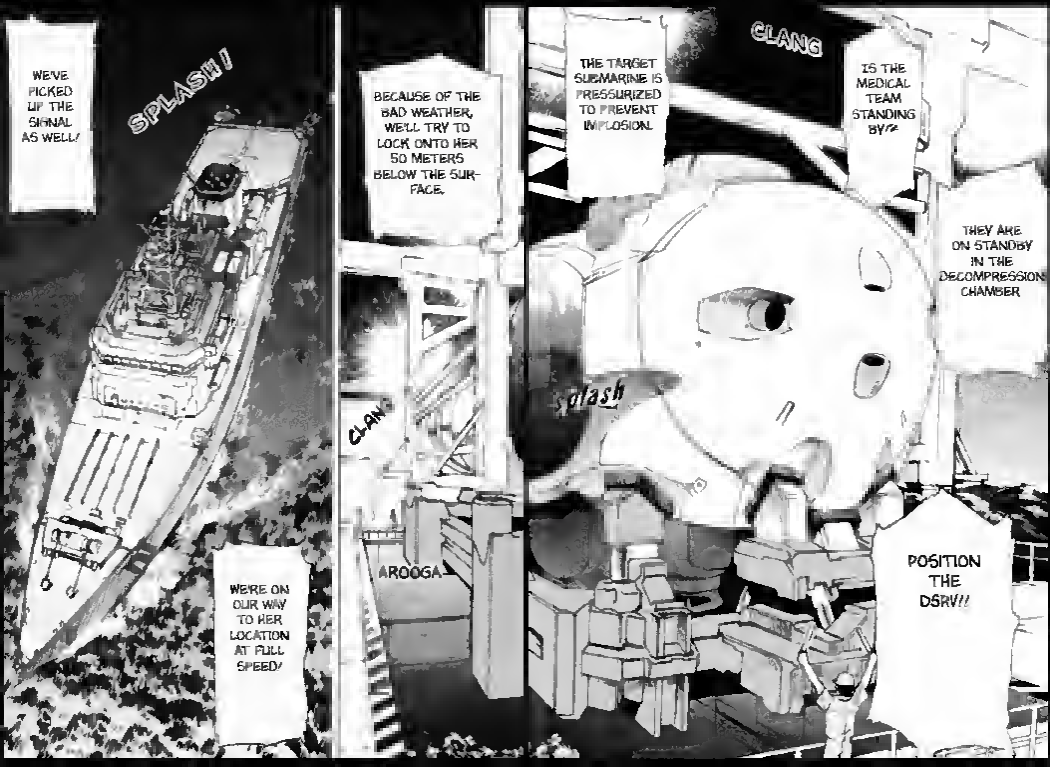
...JUST LIKE. AN UNDERWATER FOREST...
OF COURSE.
THIS IS WHAT DAD SAW...

FLICKER
PUSH
AH.

FATHER
...
THUD
WHOOSH

I'LL BET EVERYONE IS WAITING.
...OKAY.
I'M GOING HOME.
WHIRR
BZZZT

SPLASH!
WE'VE GOT A SONAR CONTACT!!
FLICKER
IS IT SHIKI!?
I CAN'T CONFIRM IT... BUT I'M SURE IT'S HER!
SHE'S DRIFTED SO FAR...
SHE'S ASCENDING UNDER HER OWN POWER!
SPLASH!


WE'VE PICKED UP THE SIGNAL AS WELL!
SPLASH!
WE'RE ON OUR WAY TO HER LOCATION AT FULL SPEED!
BECAUSE OF THE BAD WEATHER, WE'LL TRY TO LOCK ONTO HER 50 METERS BELOW THE SURFACE.
CLAN
AROOGA
THE TARGET SUBMARINE IS PRESSURIZED TO PREVENT IMPLOSION.
CLANG
IS THE MEDICAL TEAM STANDING BY?
THEY ARE ON STANDBY IN THE DECOMPRESSION CHAMBER
Splash
POSITION THE DSRV!!

ARRRRR
MMM.
I
MADE IT
CLANG

HOW'S SHIKI DOING?
A LITTLE EXHAUSTED BUT SHE'S IN NO DANGER
SHIZURU IS KEEPING AN EYE ON HER RIGHT NOW.
SHE SHOULD BE OUT OF THE DECOMPRESSION CHAMBER ANYTIME NOW.
GREAT

BUT...
SHE WAS ABLE TO USE THE FLOATATION SYSTEM FROM THE SUNKEN SUB
...IT'S AMAZING THAT IT SURVIVED AFTER FOUR YEARS.
MAYBE...
MY SON WAS WAITING FOR SHIKI ALL THOSE YEARS...

ARE YOU FEELING OKAY, SHIKI
YEA.
MOM
WHAT IS IT
I'VE BEEN THINKING.
WHEN I SANK IN THE OCEAN I FELT I WAS VERY SMALL AT THE BOTTOM OF THE WORLD.
IT WAS LIKE I WAS ONLY ONE OF THE FLICKERS OF LIGHT IN THE DEEP SEA.

BUT ONCE I SPOTTED DAD, I STARTED THINKING ABOUT ALL THE PEOPLE I CARE ABOUT WAITING FOR ME.
THEN...
...I SAID GOODBYE TO DAD AND...
I...
CAME HOME.

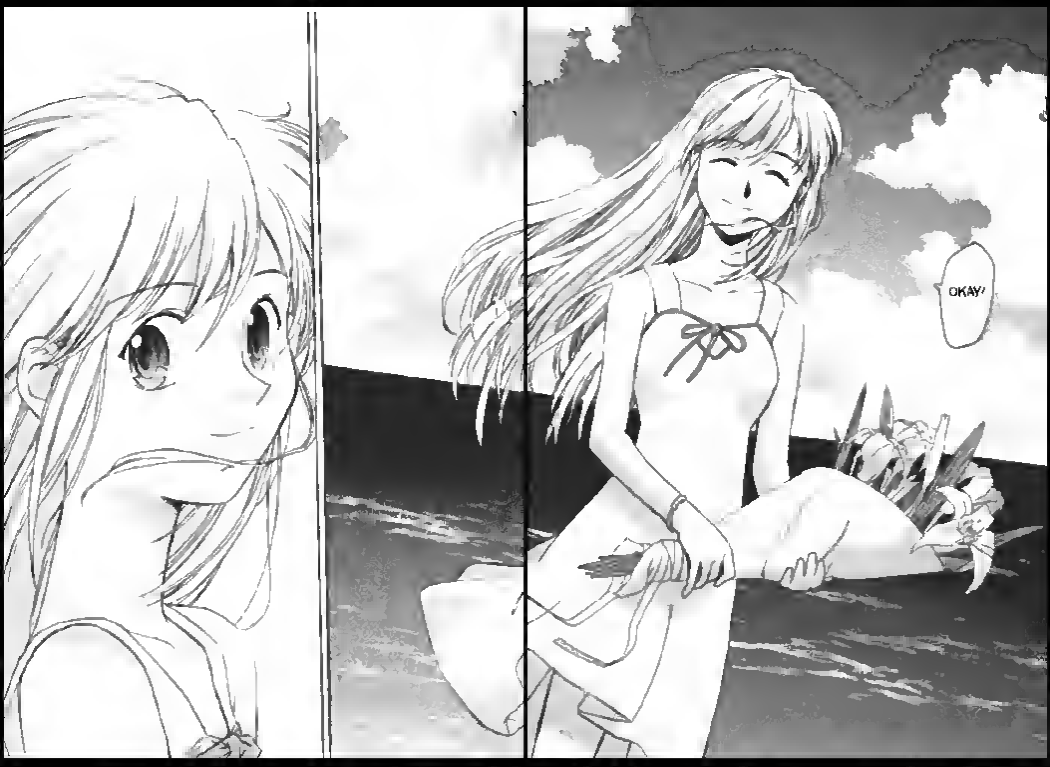
SEVEN TENTHS OF THE SURFACE OF THE EARTH IS COVERED BY OCEANS
THE HUMAN BODY IS SEVEN TENTHS WATER.
ALL LIVING THINGS HAVE PART OF THE SEA LIVING IN THEM.
KAZUKI USED TO TELL ME.
...THE FIRST LIFE ON EARTH WAS BORN AT THE BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN...
...AND THEN SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE SEA, ONTO LAND AND INTO THE SKY OF THE WORLD...

CLICK

WELCOME BACK...
SHIKI.
I'M HOME!

A FEW YEARS LATER...
HEY!
KIDS! CUT OUT THAT RACKET!
YEAH!
YOU?
A BOAT!
DAMMIT
TODAY'S A MEMORIAL DAY FOR KAZUKI. I'M SORRY SHIZURU.
...MY KIDS ARE.
DON'T WORRY

IT'S MUCH BETTER TO BE CHEERFUL
HE NEVER DID LIKE.
FORMALITIES.
HEY
SHIKI! WE'RE LEAVING NOW!


OKAY?

THE END.